

# L123 | I Corinthians | A More Excellent Way | I Cor. 12:27-31

## I. Intro/Review:

- Spiritual Gifts
  - Ignorant of where they came from, their use and purpose, their oneness and diversity
- Necessity, Honor, Care
  - Suffer we all suffer with it
  - Honored we all rejoice

## II. Preview:

- Declaration of Paul's analogy is true for the body of Christ
- As God's setting of members in the body so God's settings of some in the church the body of Christ.
- Not all have the same gift - why covet the best gifts

## III. Sermon:

**Now ye are the body of Christ, and members in particular.**  
{1Co 12:27}

- **"Now ye are the body of Christ"**
  - :12 - "for as the body is one...one body...one body...so also is Christ."
  - :13 - "...baptized into one body"
  - :14 - "For the body is not one member, but many."
  - :20 - "...But now are they many members, yet but one body."
  - Taking the principles of the physical body and now recognizing them as "the body of Christ".
- **"and members in particular."**
  - :12 - "many members...all members"
  - :14 - "For the body is not one member, but many."
  - :18 - "...God hath set the members every one of them in the body"

**And God hath set some in the church, first apostles, secondarily prophets, thirdly teachers,  
after that miracles, then gifts of healings, helps, governments, diversities of tongues.**  
{1Co 12:28}

- **"And God hath set"**
  - :18 - "But now hath God set the members every one of them in the body, as it hath pleased Him."

- **"some in the church"**

- Equality and diversity as members of the body of Christ and such offices, yet based on the "profit" there are those "gifts of the Spirit" of which some are "best".
- "first...secondarily...thirdly"
  - "apostles", "prophets", "teachers"
  - Eph. 2:20, 3:5 - foundation of the apostles and prophets (1 Cor. 3:9-11, Eph. 2:19ff)
  - Eph. 4:11 - gave some apostles, prophets...
- List of gifts attached to a chronological order of which God "set some in the church".
  - This begs the question why were "some" first, second, and third.

**Are all apostles? are all prophets? are all teachers? are all workers of miracles? Have all the gifts of healing? do all speak with tongues? do all interpret?**  
{1Co 12:29-30}

- 7 questions of which the answer is "no"
- Not all are apostles, prophets, teachers, workers of miracles, gifts of healing, etc

**But covet earnestly the best gifts: and yet shew I unto you a more excellent way.**  
{1Co 12:31}

- If not all have the best gifts why covet them?
  - If there is equality and diversity then why covet earnestly the best gifts?
  - If the Spirit has given according to His will why covet that which He hasn't given?

- **"But covet earnestly the best gifts:"**

- **"but"**

1. The Corinthians didn't understand the equality of the Spirit, Lord, and God (oneness)
2. The Corinthians didn't understand the diversity of the Spirit, Lord, and God (differences)
3. The Corinthians didn't understand the quality of the gifts of the Spirit and their purpose

- **"covet earnestly"** - to burn with zeal (1. heated with envy, 2. zealous in the pursuit of good)

- "moved with envy" - Acts 7:9, 17:5
- "envieth not" - 1 Cor. 13:4
- "desire" - 1 Cor. 14:1
- "covet to prophesy" - 1 Cor. 14:39
- "jealous" - 2 Cor. 11:2
- "zealously affect" - Gal. 4:17-18

- **"the best gifts"**

1. Does not take away from the equality or diversity of gifts
2. Highlights the quality of the gift

- The best gifts were not the gifts the Corinthians were coveting.
- The Corinthians were coveting the lesser gifts.
  
- Begs the question why are some gifts "best" gifts
  - First - "apostles"
  - Second - "prophets"
  - Third - "teachers"
  
- All preach Christ
- All to provide the body to "prophecy"

#### **IV. Conclusion:**

- Where is this all headed - chapter 13 "charity" and chapter 14 "edification" (1 Cor. 8:1-3)
- Headed to Ephesians 4:11-16