

The Church—Unity in Diversity

1 Corinthians 12

Part 1

I. The Holy Spirit's Primary Work

Mat. 16:15-18 He said to them, "But who do you say that I am?" Simon Peter replied, "You are the Christ, the Son of the living God." And Jesus answered him, "Blessed are you, Simon Bar-Jonah! For flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but my Father who is in heaven. And I tell you, you are Peter, and on this rock **I will build my church**, and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it.

Eph. 2:19-21 So then you are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God, built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Christ Jesus himself being the cornerstone, in whom the whole structure, being joined together, grows into a holy temple in the Lord.

John 14:16-18 And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Helper, to be with you forever, even the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees him nor knows him. You know him, for he dwells with you and will be in you. I will not leave you as orphans; I will come to you.

Rom. 8:9 You, however, are not in the flesh but in the Spirit, if in fact the Spirit of God dwells in you. **Anyone who does not have the Spirit of Christ does not belong to him.**

The nature of the Church is determined not by us or by human opinion, but by Jesus Christ, His gospel, and the work of the Holy Spirit within His people.

At the moment of salvation, a saved individual is brought into God's great work of redemption, accomplished by Christ and is being carried forward by the Holy Spirit.

A. Holy Spirit Saves

1 Cor. 12:1-3 Now concerning spiritual gifts, brothers, I do not want you to be uninformed. You know that when you were pagans you were led astray to mute idols, however you were led. Therefore I want you to understand that no one speaking in the Spirit of God ever says "Jesus is accursed!" and **no one can say "Jesus is Lord" except in the Holy Spirit.**

John 3:5-6 Jesus answered, "Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God. **That which is born of the flesh is flesh, and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit.**"

Eph. 1:13 In him you also, when you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation, and believed in him, **were sealed with the promised Holy Spirit.**

True salvation, however, is always the result of the Holy Spirit's work. It is accomplished according to His initiative and His terms.

B. Holy Spirit Gives Unique Spiritual Gifts

1 Cor. 12:4-7 Now there are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit; and there are varieties of service, but the same Lord; and there are varieties of activities, but it is the same God who empowers them all in everyone. To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good.

Gift - χάρισμα
Grace - χάρις

Gifts – χαρισμάτων – are the abilities and opportunities given by the Holy Spirit to enable believers to participate in His work.

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C. Holy Spirit Immerses Believers into the Body of Christ

1 Cor. 12:12-13 For just as the body is one and has many members, and all the members of the body, though many, are one body, so it is with Christ. For in one Spirit we were all baptized into one body—Jews or Greeks, slaves or free—and all were made to drink of one Spirit.

Rom. 8:9 You, however, are not in the flesh but in the Spirit, if in fact the Spirit of God dwells in you. Anyone who does not have the Spirit of Christ does not belong to him.

Eph. 1:22-23 And he put all things under his feet and gave him as head over all things to the church, which is his body, the fullness of him who fills all in all.

Col. 1:18-19 And he is the head of the body, the church. He is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, that in everything he might be preeminent. For in him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell.

Col. 2:6 Therefore, as you received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk in him,

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D. Holy Spirit Builds the Church

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1 Cor. 14:3 On the other hand, the one who prophesies speaks **to people for their upbuilding** and encouragement and consolation.

1 Cor. 14:4 ...but the one who prophesies **builds up the church**.

1 Cor. 14:5 ...The one who prophesies is greater than the one who speaks in tongues, unless someone interprets, **so that the church may be built up**.

1 Cor. 14:12 So with yourselves, since you are eager for manifestations of the Spirit, strive to excel **in building up the church**.

1 Cor. 14:26 ...Let all things be done **for building up**.

The spiritual growth of those whom Christ has saved takes place within the church, through the mutual ministry and interaction of its members.

- In the church, God has appointed pastors and teachers to preach His Word, through which we come to know Christ more fully and become more like Him.
- In the church, God surrounds us with mature believers who help us grow in Christ through discipleship, mentoring, and personal example.
- In the church, God places us among people with weaknesses and imperfections so that we may learn to practice the character of Christ—love, compassion, forgiveness, mercy, patience, and more.
- In the church, God provides countless opportunities for ministry—to care for one another, build one another up, encourage one another, strengthen one another, and spur one another on to follow Christ.

Eph. 4:11-13 And he gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the shepherds and teachers, to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ, until we all attain to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to mature manhood, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ

Eph. 4:14-16 ...so that we may no longer be children, tossed to and fro by the waves and carried about by every wind of doctrine, by human cunning, by craftiness in deceitful schemes. Rather, speaking the truth in love, we are to grow up in every way into him who is the head, into Christ, from whom the whole body, joined and held together by every joint with which it is equipped, when each part is working properly, makes the body grow so that it builds itself up in love.



The unity of the Church is rooted in the very nature of salvation.

Salvation is the work of the Holy Spirit, who carries forward the work of Christ.

- The Holy Spirit regenerates us, giving us new life from above.
- The Holy Spirit equips each of us with unique spiritual gifts.
- The Holy Spirit baptizes us into the body of Christ.
- The Holy Spirit works in us so that, through us, He may build His Church.