

I) V12-14 INTRO: For as the body is one and has many members, but all the One of the problems the Corinthian church suffered with was *division*

II) Paul had already approached this in earlier portions of his letter

1 Co 1:10-11 Now I plead with you, brethren, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that you all speak the same thing, and **that there be no divisions** among you, but that you be perfectly joined together **in the same mind** and in the **same judgment**. For it has been declared to me concerning you, my brethren, by those of Chloe's household, that **there are contentions** among you.

HE WENT ON TO WRITE

1 Co 3:3-4 You are still carnal: for where there are envying, strife, and divisions among you, are you not carnal, and behaving like mere men? For while one says, I am of Paul; and another, I am of Apollos; are you not carnal?

EARLIER IN THIS LETTER

III) Paul reminded the Church of the spiritual unity they had in Jesus

He illustrated this when writing concerning communion

1 Co 10:17 We being many are **one bread** and **one body**: for we all partake of that **one bread**

IV) **Unity** is of utmost importance in the Body of Christ

The Body of Christ is to be one in the Lord, standing together against the Enemy

QUOTE

V) Satan **always** hates Christian fellowship; it is his policy to keep Christians apart. He delights in anything that can divide saints from one another. He attaches far more importance to godly fellowship than we do. Since union is strength, he does his best to promote separation.

Mt 12:25 Every kingdom divided against itself is brought to desolation; and every city or house divided against itself shall not stand:

VI) The bible teaches us that God desires us to dwell together in *peace and unity*

Ps. 133:1 Behold, how good and how pleasant it is for brethren to dwell together in unity!

VII) Jesus prayed that we would have unity with one another, in Him

Jn 17:20-21 I do not pray for these alone, but also for those who will believe in Me through their word; **that they all may be one**, as You, Father, are in Me, and I in You; that they also may be **one in Us**, that the world may believe that You sent Me.

- I) Because this is true we must protect the unity we have in Christ
This is something we must decide to do because we love Him and one another
Eph 4:1-3 I therefore the prisoner of the Lord beseech you to walk worthy of the calling with which you were called, with all lowliness and gentleness, with longsuffering, bearing with one another in love, endeavoring to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace

IMPORTANT

- II) **Unity** does not mean **uniformity**
We are not clones: We each have distinct gifts and callings in Christ's Church
Unity can be expressed even in diversity as long as we work for the same goal
PAUL NOW POINTS THIS OUT
- III) V12 For as the body is one and has many members but all the members of that Paul emphasizes the interrelationship of *each member of the Body of Christ*
- IV) He chooses to use the word **body** some 18 times from V12-27
- V) This word refers to the unity we have in Christ: he uses it in other letters
Ro 12:5 We, being many are **one body** in Christ and individually members one of another
Eph 5:23 Christ is the head of the church, **His body**...
Col. 1:18 He is the **head of the body**, the church
Col 3:15 Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in **one body**. And be thankful
- VI) This emphasizes the importance of community and interdependence of believers
Knowing we are one body encourages us to love and service to the Lord
PAUL MAKES IT CLEAR
- VII) V12 For as the body is one and has many members but all the members of that He makes it clear that we, who are **in Christ**, are one in Him
We are not a social club or sports team: We are members of one another, in Him
- VIII) The church is the **visible body** of Christ
We are family members **learning** to love one another (Jn 13:34-35)
1 Jn 4:20-21 If anyone says, "I love God," yet hates his brother, he is a liar. For anyone who does not love his brother, whom he has seen, cannot love God, whom he has not seen. And He has given us this command: Whoever loves God **must also love his brother**.

- I) V13 For **by one Spirit** we were all baptized into *one* body-whether Jews or Greeks
Our family membership is not racial, political or denominational
It is a membership of the Spirit, made possible by the Spirit of God
- II) V13 For by one Spirit we were all baptized into one body whether Jews or Greeks
How did we become members of the Body of Christ? By the agency of the Spirit
- III) V13 Whether Jews or Greeks
We are one in Jesus, even if we were separated by culture and religion
Jews and Greeks had complete separation: Greeks were without God!
- IV) We are one in Jesus, even if separated by social standing: free vs. slave
Our mutual faith in Jesus has bridged the gap
- V) A great reminder is found in Philemon
Onesimus, a runaway slave, had come to faith through Paul
- VI) Paul sent Onesimus back to Philemon, saying
Philemon 15-16 For perhaps he departed for a while for this purpose, that you might receive him forever, no longer as a slave **but more than a slave—a beloved brother**, especially **to me** but how much more **to you**, both in the flesh and in the Lord.
- VII) We are one in Jesus, which is intended to unify the church
Gal 3:26-28 You are all sons of God through faith in Christ Jesus, for all of you who were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ. There is neither Jew nor Greek, slave nor free, male nor female, for **you are all one** in Christ Jesus.
Col 3:11 there is neither Greek nor Jew, circumcised nor uncircumcised, barbarian, Scythian, slave nor free, but **Christ is all** and in all.
HOW DID THIS HAPPEN
- VIII) The **Holy Spirit** brought us into and united us in the Body
This is not speaking of water baptism but specifically refers to the Spirit
- IX) This is much deeper than washing the body with water
It speaks of being immersed in the Holy Spirit and being united in the Body
NOTICE
- X) V13 All have been made **to drink** of the Spirit
Each member of the Church has become a member by **drinking** of the Spirit

- I) **To drink**: To be watered, irrigated, saturated with God's Spirit
Jn 7:37-39 On the last and greatest day of the Feast, Jesus stood and said in a loud voice, "If anyone is thirsty, let him come to Me and drink. Whoever believes in Me, as the Scripture has said, streams of living water will flow **from within him**." By this He meant the Spirit, whom those who believed in Him were later to receive. Up to that time the Spirit had not been given, since Jesus had not yet been glorified.
- II) V14 For in fact the body is not one member but **many**
The human body is called **a body**, but it is actually made up of many parts
POINT
- III) **Salvation** makes us all one in Jesus Christ by faith in Jesus
We belong to the one body, but each has different gifts and applications
- IV) There are different offices in the church, and there are different gifts
They are to all work together to produce a unified and effective church
- V) V15-17 If the foot should say because I am not a **hand** I am not of the body
Many were unhappy with their gifts and were comparing themselves
- VI) **Remember**: Comparisons, jealousy, and envy are sure sign of carnality
1 Co 3:3 you are still carnal. For where there are envy, strife, and divisions among you, are you not carnal and behaving like mere men?
2 Co 10:12 We do not dare to classify or compare ourselves with some who commend themselves. When they measure themselves by themselves and compare themselves with themselves, **they are not wise**
- VII) V15-17 If the foot should say Because I am not a hand I am not of the body is it
The foot compares itself with a hand, and an ear with the eye and the nose
Each has a function that **is necessary** for the overall good of the body
- VIII) Some look around and then say to themselves **I am not necessary**
The comparing of gifts results in the **quenching of ministry**
- IX) V18 **God** has set the members, each one of them, in the body **just as He pleased**
Each member of the Body is of utmost importance, and is needed
It is most valuable when it performs the function it has been created for
Don't try to be what you are not equipped to be

- I) Instead of envying somebody else's gift, learn to use the gift that you have
- II) God has gifted and placed each on in the place that they can be used best
- III) The less obvious members often are of great importance
- IV) When you attend services, you can get an unbalanced view of gifts
You see worship ministers and communicators: bulletin and teaching
You might not get a full picture
THOSE AREN'T THE ONLY GIFTS
- V) **Parking ministers** exercise the gift of **servicing** (ministration-Ro 12:7)
Greeters exercise the gift of **helps** (V28)
Ushers exercise the gift of **administration** (direction) V28
Children's ministers exercise the gift of **teaching** (V28, Ro 12:7)
Those praying during and after services show **mercy** and **exhortation** (Ro 12:8)
THEIR PROBLEM
- VI) Certain gifts were being exalted above other less obvious gifts
The **noticeable** gifts were the ones being coveted and sought for
QUESTION
- VII) What is the answer to this problem? God determines which gifts you possess
God does not make mistakes when He determines your gifting
SOLUTION
- VIII) Don't envy somebody else's gifting, just learn to use the gifts He has given you
And don't try to minister like someone else: **be yourself**
- IX) V19-20 And if they were all one member where would the body be
Remember: The Body is diverse: Each member has an important function
One person isn't more important than the other: Don't exalt one gift over another
- X) V21 And the eye cannot say to the hand I have no need of you nor again the head
This gives us a second attitude that results in the quenching of ministry:
We do not need you
- XI) V21 The eye cannot say to the hand **I have no need of you**
- XII) Some were saying We don't really need you, you simply are not necessary
We need each other and we have a built in desire to be needed

- I) The gifts of the Holy Spirit are intended to heal **a broken body**
God did not redeem us **for ourselves**, but to create a new **community**
One that evidences His presence, cemented by service and loving compassion
- II) We need each other, and we need to remain united as one body
- III) V22 No much rather those members of the body which **seem to be weaker** are
Christianity is not a system where **only the strong survive**
We are to be mutually dependent on one another
- IV) There are parts of our bodies that are more sensitive to injury and pain
Our eyes are vulnerable, and our hearts, brains and lungs are protected
They are much more prone to injury than our legs, hands, and feet
- V) We can continue to live if we should lose **one of our limbs**
If we should lose our heart, lungs or brain life would not continue
- VI) V23-24 Those members of the body which we think to be less honorable
When we get dressed, because of modesty, we make sure to cover certain parts
We also cover up what we don't think is that attractive: large shirts!
- VII) Our faces are normally seen, and adorned appropriately
POINT
- VIII) The members of the body that remain unseen are incredibly necessary
The visible ones who get the most attention aren't necessarily that important
The unseen, loving members make up the wave the pastor surfs!
- IX) **The fact is** we are needed and everybody is necessary: David Krieger
If we don't care for and love people, cults will
- X) V25 That there should be **no schism** in the body but that the members should have
There must be no division in the Body and no preferential treatment
There also should be no desire for preferential treatment
- XI) Love that surrounds and heals must be the norm of the Church
Jas 2:1 Do not hold the faith of our Lord Jesus Christ, **the Lord of glory**, with
partiality

- I) **V26-27 If one member suffers all the members suffer with it; or if one member is
We suffer with one another, and we rejoice with one another**
- II) **We must rejoice when somebody gets honored as well as sorrow when one is hurt
We should rejoice like a dad or mom does when their child gets awarded**
- III) **V28-30 Paul closes by reminding the Church that it is God who appoints (sets)
God has officially appointed these to these offices**
- IV) **Apostles: foundation, chosen by Jesus and having seen the resurrected Christ
Their teaching is the accepted doctrine**
- V) **Prophets: Messages lining up with apostolic doctrine (14:37-Eph 2:20)
Teachers: Pastor, but may also be to the Church in general (Theologians)
Miracles, Healings, Helps, Administrations, Tongues: Spiritual gifts**
- VI) **V31 Earnestly desire the best gifts and yet I will show you a more excellent way
He closes by encouraging them to seek the better, or the most excellent way
The way of love**