

The Unity of Diversity

1 Corinthians 12:4-6

I. Intro

● Anecdote

• Unity

- When it comes to the unity of the Christian church - it's important to understand the difference - between division - and diversity.
- The Division caused by contentious Christians can end up destroying the spirit of unity that becomes our bond of peace.
- And it's for this reason that Paul warned the Christians in Corinth - about the divisive disciples - who were causing conflict.
- At the same time - Paul also encouraged his audience to realize that - diversity is an important part of every Christian congregation.
- In other words - the unity of the Christian community - is created by the diversity that the Lord has dialed in to every Church.
- And while we should all do our best to avoid becoming those disciples who are causing division...
- ...we should also do our best - to embrace the diversity that our God has designed - for our fellowship of Faith.

II. Outline

● Points

- Diversity?
- Now - I realize that I'm using terms that could easily be misunderstood.

- That being the case - we're going to spend our time today - - considering what Paul had to say - about the unity of diversity.
- And as we study the scriptures before us this morning - we'll begin to see that...
 1. The Unity of Diversity is based on our Spiritual Abilities
 2. The Unity of Diversity is based on our Ministerial Administrations
 3. The Unity of Diversity is based on our Operational Activities
- With this as our outline - let's open our Bibles to 1st Corinthians chapter 12...
 - ...where we find Paul - helping his audience to understand how Christians can experience unity in our diversity.

III. Abilities

- Set up

- Context

- As we make our way to the 12th chapter of 1st Corinthians - I wanna take a moment to put our text back into it's context.
- It'll help us to remember that it was in our study last week - when we considered the way in which the Holy Spirit was sent to help us.
- This of course includes the spiritual gifts that Paul mentioned - back in the first verse of this chapter.
- According to Paul - the Christians in Corinth seemed to be struggling with questions about the gifts of the Spirit.
- It's for this reason that he took the time to clear up the confusion - so that they might not be ignorant of these spiritual gifts.

- And it's here in our text today - where we find Paul describing the unity we have in diversity.
- With this as our focus - let's pick up our study of 1st Corinthians 12 beginning there at verse 4 - where we learn that...

● Text

1Co 12:4 There are diversities of gifts, but the same Spirit.
 1Co 12:5 There are differences of ministries, but the same Lord.
 1Co 12:6 And there are diversities of activities, but it is the same God who works all in all.

• Diversities

- Here in these verses - we find Paul - describing the unity that we have - in diversity.
- And just to be clear about the diversity that Paul was referring to - it'll help you to know that...
 - ...the word - diversities - found there in verses 4 and 6 - - AND the word - differences - found there in verse 5...
 - ...they're all translated from the same Greek word - which was used in reference to the distinctions created by different classifications.
 - And while we tend to think about diversity - in the context of ethnic or social differences...
 - ...Paul was referring to diversity that takes place in the context of the Christian church.
 - And this begins with the diversity that is created by the spiritual gifts that we've received.

• Gifts

- Let's consider again how Paul put it here in our text today - it's there in verse 4 where he declared...

1Co 12:4 There are diversities of gifts, but the same Spirit.

- Now - that word - gifts - was translated from the Greek word - charisma.
- And the Greek word - charisma - is the basis for our English word - charismatic - which in a Christian context...
 - ...refers to the interdenominational churches that emphasize the continuation of the spiritual gifts that Paul listed - here in this chapter.
 - And this - in contrast to the cessationist churches that assure us that the signifying gifts - like tongues - and healings - have ceased...
 - ...since the canon of scripture was completed by the early church.
- Weak
 - The Biblical basis for those who espouse cessationism is found in 1st Corinthians chapter 13 - where Paul declared...

1Co 13:9 For we know in part and we prophesy in part.

1Co 13:10 But when that which is perfect has come, then that which is in part will be done away.

1Co 13:11 When I was a child, I spoke as a child, I understood as a child, I thought as a child; but when I became a man, I put away childish things.

- From this - those who espouse cessationism will insist that Paul was referring to the completed canon of the Old and New Testament.
- And when we get to these verses - we'll take the time to consider the weakness of the cessationist interpretation of this epistle.
- But for now - it's important for us to understand that Paul was helping the Christians in Corinth to realize that...
 - ...the Holy Spirit Distributes the charismatic gifts to the disciples of Christ...

- ...so that we can experience the unity of diversity - throughout the entire church age.
- Different
 - In order to understand how the charismatic gifts help every church to experience the unity of diversity...
 - ...we should consider something that Paul said - in the letter that he sent to the Christians at the church in Rome.
 - Hold your place here in 1st Corinthians - and let's turn in our Bibles to Romans chapter 12.
 - It's here in the 12th chapter of Romans where we find Paul helping the church in Rome...
 - ...to understand how the Holy Spirit distributes a diversity of charismatic gifts to every Christian...
 - ...so that the church can work together - to accomplish our calling in Christ.
- Differing
 - Let's consider how Paul put it - here in Romans chapter 12 - look with me beginning there at verse 3 - where he declared...

Rom 12:3 For I say, through the grace given to me, to everyone who is among you, not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think, but to think soberly, as God has dealt to each one a measure of faith.

Rom 12:4 For as we have many members in one body, but all the members do not have the same function,

Rom 12:5 so we, being many, are one body in Christ, and individually members of one another.

Rom 12:6 Having then gifts differing according to the grace that is given to us, let us use them: if prophecy, let us prophesy in proportion to our faith;

Rom 12:7 or ministry, let us use it in our ministering; he who teaches, in teaching;

Rom 12:8 he who exhorts, in exhortation; he who gives, with liberality; he who leads, with diligence; he who shows mercy, with cheerfulness.

- Here in these verses - we find Paul - presenting a list of charismatic gifts - which the Holy Spirit distributes to the disciples of Christ.
- This includes the gift of prophecy - as well as the gift of ministry.
 - There is the gift of teaching - the gift of exhortation - the gift of giving - the gift of leadership - and the gift of mercy.
 - If you want to do a deeper dive on these gifts - then - I invite you to watch the IGNITE Series - found at [Calvary South Austin .com](http://CalvarySouthAustin.com).
 - But for now - I just want to point out that - these gifts - which are distinctly different - are distributed for our unity.
- Body
- I like the way that the scholars who created the New International Version rendered verses 4 thru 6 - they put it like this...

Rom 12:4 For just as each of us has one body with many members, and these members do not all have the same function,

Rom 12:5 so in Christ we, though many, form one body, and each member belongs to all the others.

Rom 12:6a We have different gifts, according to the grace given to each of us.

- I love the way that Paul used the human body - to illustrate the unity of diversity that we experience - as we use our spiritual gifts.
- Much like a body - which has many different members that accomplish various functions...
 - ...the body of Christ has many members - who have been empowered with different charismatic gifts...

- ...so that we can edify one another up - here within our fellowship of faith.
- And so we see that - the Holy Spirit helps us to achieve unity - through the diversity of gifts that He distributes to us.

- Spirit

- With this as our focus - let's make our way back to 1st Corinthians chapter 12 where we find Paul - summarizing this incredible truth.

- Look with me again - there at verse 4 - where Paul declared...

1Co 12:4 There are diversities of gifts, but the same Spirit.

- As we take another look at this verse - we must not fail to notice that - it's the SAME Spirit - who distributes these differing gifts.

- There aren't different spirits - who are empowering the disciples of Christ.

- No - it's the SAME Spirit - - it's the Holy Spirit Who distributes these charismatic gifts...

- ...so that we can do our part - to help the body here at Calvary South Austin - function in the way that we should.

- There is One Spirit - the Spirit of God - Who help us to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.

- Distribute

- I like the way that Paul put it - later in this same chapter - look with me there at verse 11 - where he declared...

1Co 12:11 ...one and the same Spirit works all these things, distributing to each one individually as He wills.

- The Holy Spirit of God is the One - Who distributes the spiritual gifts that we receive - at the moment when we are born of the Spirit.
- You might not know this - but - every Christian here this morning has received spiritual gifts...
 - ...so that we can become believers - who are actively serving our Savior - here in our fellowship of faith.
 - If this is news to you - then you might like to know that - we're about to engage in a study of these gifts - beginning next week...
 - ...as we take the time to examine some of the charismatic gifts that Paul presented - here in this chapter.
- Self Examine
 - But for the sake of our study today - we should take a moment to examine our own lives by asking...
 - ...am I helping our church to experience the unity of diversity - by using the spiritual gifts that I've received?
 - With this question in mind - we should consider the instructions that Peter presented in his first epistle.
 - Hold your place here in 1st Corinthians - and let's turn in our Bibles to 1st Peter chapter 4.
 - It's here in the fourth chapter of 1st Peter - where we find the apostle helping his audience to understand that...
 - ...every Christian has been called to become a good steward of the spiritual gift that they've received.
 - And what this means is that - we've been called to use our gifts - to bless the body of Christ.

● Application

- Unity

- Let's consider how the apostle Peter put it - here in 1st Peter 4 - look with me - beginning there at verse 10 - where he declared...

1Pe 4:10 As each one has received a gift, minister it to one another, as good stewards of the manifold grace of God.

1Pe 4:11 If anyone speaks, let him speak as the oracles of God. If anyone ministers, let him do it as with the ability which God supplies, that in all things God may be glorified through Jesus Christ, to whom belong the glory and the dominion forever and ever. Amen.

- So - according to Peter - every Christian has received at least one spiritual gift.
 - If you've been born of the Spirit - by faith in Jesus Christ - then you've also received a spiritual gift - for the benefit of other believers.
 - We should also notice that the apostle Peter directed every disciple to become good stewards of our spiritual gifts...
 - ...by making sure that we are using our spiritual abilities - to minister to others - as we glorify the Lord Jesus Christ.
 - And in this way - we will experience the unity of diversity - as we all use our Spiritual Abilities - to serve one another.

- Transition

- Points

- This brings us to our second point - because listen...

1. ...The Unity of Diversity is not only based on our Spiritual Abilities...

2. ...but - the Unity of Diversity is also based on our Ministerial Administrations

- In order to explain what I mean - let's turn back to 1st Corinthians chapter 12...
- ...where we find Paul - continuing to describe the unity of diversity.
- Look with me again - beginning there at verse 4 - where we learn that...

IV. Administrations

- Text

1Co 12:4 There are diversities of gifts, but the same Spirit.

1Co 12:5 There are differences of ministries, but the same Lord.

- Differences

- Now - that word - differences - found there in verse 5 - was translated from the same Greek word - which was rendered - diversities - in verse 4.
- It's for this reason that the scholars who created the American Standard Bible rendered verse 5 in this way...
- "...there are diversities of ministrations, and the same Lord."
- And so - in the same way that the Holy Spirit distributes a diversity of charismatic gifts that provide us with different spiritual abilities...
- ...the Lord Jesus also defines a diversity of ministries - that are then administered by the servants of the Lord.
- And in this way - the Diversity of Ministerial Administrations helps us to maintain the unity of the church.

- Ministries

- In order to make my case - we should take a moment to consider the meaning of the word - ministries - found there in verse 5.
- The original Greek word can also be rendered - Administrations.

- In a general sense - this word was used of those who execute the commands of another.
- In the context of the Christian faith - this word was used in reference to the office of the apostles - and its administration.
- This word was also used in reference to the office of prophets - evangelists - and pastor teachers...
 - ...who are also called elders - and Bishops.
 - And in a broader context - this word was used in reference to the office of the deacons who serve in various ways.
- Apostles
 - With all of this in mind - we can see that there's a Diversity of Ministerial Administrations...
 - ...which the Lord Jesus distributes to those He decides to appoint to these various offices.
 - And in order to grasp the way that the Unity of Diversity is based on our Ministerial Administrations...
 - ...let's consider the way that Paul explained it - in the letter he sent to the church in Ephesus.
 - Hold your place here in 1st Corinthians - and let's turn in our Bibles to Ephesians chapter 4.
 - It's here in the 4th chapter of Ephesians - where we find Paul - presenting the Christians in Ephesus...
 - ...with a list of Ministerial Administrations that the Lord uses - to establish unity in every Christian congregation.
- Offices

- With this as our focus - let's focus our attention on the point that Paul was making - here in Ephesians chapter 4.
- Look with me - beginning there at verse 11 - where Paul declared...

Eph 4:11 And He Himself gave some to be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, and some pastors and teachers,

Eph 4:12 for the equipping of the saints for the work of ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ,

Eph 4:13 till we all come to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to a perfect man, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ;

Eph 4:14 that we should no longer be children, tossed to and fro and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the trickery of men, in the cunning craftiness of deceitful plotting,

Eph 4:15 but, speaking the truth in love, may grow up in all things into Him who is the head—Christ—

Eph 4:16 from whom the whole body, joined and knit together by what every joint supplies, according to the effective working by which every part does its share, causes growth of the body for the edifying of itself in love.

- Here in these verses - we find Paul - connecting the dots between the offices of the apostles - prophets - evangelists - and pastor/teachers...
- ...and the unity that is experienced by those who are equipped by the Ministerial Administrations that the Lord has established.
- And just to be clear - the offices of apostles and prophets should not be confused with the charismatic gifts that share the same names.
- It's back in 1st Corinthians chapter 12 - where we find the apostolic - and prophetic gifts.
- And in the weeks to come - we'll spend time studying these charismatic gifts in greater detail.
- Prophets

- For now - it's important to understand that these charismatic gifts should NOT be confused with the OFFICE of Apostle - and Prophet.
- One reason for why this distinction is so important is due to the fact that - both offices are now closed.
- Case in point - the office of Prophet - was occupied by those who were called to prophetically point to the coming of Christ Jesus.
- That being the case - the office of prophet ended with John the Baptist.
- This was precisely the point that the Lord Jesus was making in Matthew chapter 11 - where He declared...

Mat 11:13 "For all the prophets and the law prophesied until John.
 Mat 11:14 "And if you are willing to receive it, he is Elijah who is to come."

- From this - we can see that the office of Prophet ended with John the Baptist.
- Apostles
- Not only that - but - the office of Apostle also ended - after the 12 apostles of Christ Jesus died.
- Proof of my point is found in Acts chapter 1 - where Peter presented these Apostolic requirements - by declaring...
 Act 1:21 "...of these men who have accompanied us all the time that the Lord Jesus went in and out among us,
 Act 1:22 "beginning from the baptism of John to that day when He was taken up from us, one of these must become a witness with us of His resurrection."
- The men who occupied the office of the 12 apostles - were were followers of Jesus...

- ...from the day of our Savior's baptism - until the day He arose from the dead.
- What this means is that - those who currently claim to occupy the office of apostle - are clearly confused.
- And while it's true that the offices of the apostles and prophets is now closed...
 - ...every believer still benefits from their ministerial administration - as we read their writings - found in the word of God.

- The Word

- I like the way that Paul explained it - in Ephesians chapter 2 - it's beginning at verse 19 - where he declared...

Eph 2:19 ...you are no longer strangers and foreigners, but fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God,

Eph 2:20 having been built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ Himself being the chief cornerstone

- The church has been built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets.
- The word - foundation - was translated from a Greek word - which was used metaphorically...
 - ...in reference to the first principles of an institution or system of truth.
 - And what this means is that - the foundational principles of the apostles and prophets - is actually found in the word of God.
 - Therefore - the church has been built upon the writings of the apostle and prophets - with Jesus being the chief cornerstone.
- Evangelists

- This brings us to the office of Evangelist - and with this in mind - let's take another look at the offices that Paul mentioned in Ephesians chapter 4.
- Look with me again - there at verse 11 - here we learn that...

Eph 4:11 ...He Himself gave some to be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists...

- Now - I wanna stop here - so that we can consider this office of the evangelist.
 - The Greek word rendered - evangelists - was used of the heralds who bring glad tidings of good news.
 - In the context of the Christian church - those who occupy the office of evangelist...
 - ...become the heralds of salvation - according to the great commission of Jesus Christ.
 - And just to be clear - these are the believers who go out into the community - and call people to believe in Jesus.
- Pastor/Teacher
 - This brings us to the fourth and final office that Paul mentioned here in Ephesians 4 - look with me again - there at verse 11 where we read...

Eph 4:11 ...He Himself gave some to be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, and some pastors and teachers,

- Now - that word - and - was translated from a Greek conjunction that has both copulative and cumulative force.
- What this means is that - we aren't talking about two different offices - - no - this is one office - occupied by a pastor-teacher.
- There's the teaching aspect of this position - which includes the message that is presented from the pulpit.

- Then there's the pastoral aspect of this office - which is accomplished by the shepherd...
- ...who leads - feeds - and intercedes for those whom the Holy Spirit has placed under his oversight.

- Overseer

- Let's consider how Paul explained it to a group of pastors from Ephesus.
- It's in Acts chapter 20 - beginning at verse 27 - where he declared...

Act 20:27 "I have not shunned to declare to you the whole counsel of God.

Act 20:28 "Therefore take heed to yourselves and to all the flock, among which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers, to shepherd the church of God which He purchased with His own blood."

- As we consider the instructions that Paul presented to the pastors from Ephesus...
- ...there should be no doubt that - it's the pastor's responsibility - to shepherd the church that he has been called to lead.
- And what this means is that - the Chief Shepherd - Jesus - has ordained the sub-shepherd - the pastor/teacher...
- ...to equip of the saints for the work of ministry - for the edifying of the body of Christ - till we all come to the UNITY of the faith...
- ...and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to a perfect man, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ.

- Application

- Lord

- This was precisely the point that Paul was making - back in 1st Corinthians chapter 12 - it's verse 5 where He declared...

1Co 12:5 There are differences of ministries, but the same Lord.

- The Lord is the One Who created the office of apostles and prophets - so that we could be unified - by the instructions found in God's holy word.
- The Lord is the One Who called every Christian to accomplish the great commission - which includes the office of evangelists.
- The Lord is the One Who has appointed and ordained pastor-teachers to equip and protect the flock that they've been called to oversee.
- The Lord is the One - Who uses a diversity of Ministerial Administrations...
 - ...so that the whole body can be joined and knit together by what every joint supplies...
 - ...according to the effective working by which every part does its share - causes growth of the body for the edifying of itself in love.

● Transition

• Points

- Now - this brings us to our third and final point - because listen...
 1. ...The Unity of Diversity is not only based on our Spiritual Abilities...
 2. ...and our Ministerial Administrations...
 3. ...but - the Unity of Diversity is also based on our Operational Activities.
 - In order to explain what I mean - let's make our way - back to 1st Corinthians chapter 12...
 - ...where we find Paul - continuing to describe the unity of diversity.

- Look with me again - beginning there at verse 4 - where we learn that...

V. Activities

● Text

1Co 12:4 There are diversities of gifts, but the same Spirit.

1Co 12:5 There are differences of ministries, but the same Lord.

1Co 12:6 And there are diversities of activities, but it is the same God who works all in all.

• Activities

- It's here in verse 6 - where we find Paul - once again using the Greek word - which is rendered - diversities.
- And in this case - he was referring to the diversities of activities that can take place within the Christian church.
- For the sake of clarity - it'll help you to know that the word - activities - was rendered the Greek word - energēma.
- And the Greek word - energēma - stems from the root word - energēs - which is the basis for our word - energy - and energetic.
- And while the Greek word - energēs - is an adjective that speaks of effectual power...
 - ...the Greek word - energēma - is a noun - which was used of the operational activities that we would call - work.

• Works

- I like the way that the scholars who created the American Standard Version rendered verse 6 - they put it like this...

1Co 12:6 ...there are diversities of workings, but the same God, who worketh all things in all.

- In other words - the God Who is working all things together for our good...
- ...is calling every Christian to accomplish the good works that He prepared beforehand - that we should walk in them.
- And in order to understand what this looks - we should take some time to consider the example of the primitive church.
- Hold your place here in 1st Corinthians - and let's turn in our Bibles to Acts chapter 6 - you see - it's here in the sixth chapter of Acts...
 - ...where we find the apostles appointing seven men - to accomplish the activities of the daily distribution.
- Differences
- Let's consider Luke's account - which is found here in Acts chapter 6.
 - Look with me - beginning there at verse 1 - where Luke writes...

Act 6:1 Now in those days, when the number of the disciples was multiplying, there arose a complaint against the Hebrews by the Hellenists, because their widows were neglected in the daily distribution.

Act 6:2 Then the twelve summoned the multitude of the disciples and said, "It is not desirable that we should leave the word of God and serve tables.

Act 6:3 "Therefore, brethren, seek out from among you seven men of good reputation, full of the Holy Spirit and wisdom, whom we may appoint over this business;

Act 6:4 "but we will give ourselves continually to prayer and to the ministry of the word."

Act 6:5 And the saying pleased the whole multitude. And they chose Stephen, a man full of faith and the Holy Spirit, and Philip, Prochorus, Nicanor, Timon, Parmenas, and Nicolas, a proselyte from Antioch,

Act 6:6 whom they set before the apostles; and when they had prayed, they laid hands on them.

- Here in these verses - we learn about the day when the apostles appointed seven men...

- ...to serve the church - in the daily distribution of food - which was provided to those who couldn't provide for themselves.
- This was a daily ministry that was beginning to keep the apostles - from accomplishing their calling.
- And it's for this reason that they decided that it was time to divide up these responsibilities...
 - ...so that the operational activities of the church could be accomplished - according to the Ministerial Administrations.
- Summary
 - To sum it all up with simplicity - - the Holy Spirit provides Christians with the charismatic gifts we need...
 - ...so that we have the Spiritual Ability to accomplish the Operational Activities of the church...
 - ...according to the Ministerial Administrations that have been put in place by the pastor of the church.
 - And as we set out to accomplish the Operational Activities that the Lord is leading us to achieve...
 - ...we can rejoice in knowing that we aren't expected to engage in these good works - in the power of the flesh.
 - It's for this reason that Paul assured the original recipients of this epistle - that our God is the One Who works all in all.
- Amplified
 - I like the way that the scholars who created the Amplified Bible rendered verse 6 - they put it like this...

1Co 12:6 ...there are [distinctive] ways of working [to accomplish things], but it is the same God who produces all things in all believers [inspiring, energizing, and empowering them].

- I love this amplification of the original Greek - because it helps us to see that...
 - ...our God is here to help us accomplish the Operational Activities that take place within our Christian community.
 - And so - if you're a believer who is apprehensive to serve our Savior - for fear of failure...
 - ...then - I encourage you to realize that - our God is here to help us accomplish our calling...
 - ...by inspiring - energizing - and empowering every believer - so that we can serve our Savior in the way that we should.
- Cooperation
 - I like the way that Paul put it - in Philippians chapter 2 - it's beginning at verse 12 - where he declared...

Phl 2:12 Therefore, my beloved, as you have always obeyed, not as in my presence only, but now much more in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling;

Phl 2:13 for it is God who works in you both to will and to do for His good pleasure.

- Now - just to be clear - Paul did NOT say - WORK FOR your salvation.
- No - instead - he told us to work out our own salvation with fear and trembling.
- In other words - those who have been saved by faith in Jesus Christ - should set out to accomplish the good works...

- ...that God prepared beforehand - that we should walk in them.
- At the same time - Paul also assured us that - God is the One Who is working in us - both to will and to do for His good pleasure.

- Workmanship

- Let's consider how Paul put it - in Ephesians chapter 2 - it's beginning at verse 8 - where he declared...

Eph 2:8 For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God,

Eph 2:9 not of works, lest anyone should boast.

Eph 2:10 For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them.

- Those who have been saved by God's grace - according to the faith we've placed in Jesus...
- ...can rejoice in knowing that we've become new creations in Christ Jesus - who are the workmanship of God.
- And as God produces all things in all believers - by inspiring - energizing - and empowering us...
- ...we will begin to experience the unity of diversity - as we engage in the Operational Activities of our church...
- ...according to the good works that God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them.

- Application

- Labor

- Now - if you think that it's a waste of time to serve our Savior here at our church - - then I encourage you to consider Paul's perspective.

- It's in 1st Corinthians chapter 15 - beginning at verse 57 - where Paul declared...

1Co 15:57 ...thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.

1Co 15:58 Therefore, my beloved brethren, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that your labor is not in vain in the Lord.

- Those who spend time engage in the Operational Activities that take place here at our church...
 - ...are actually walking in the victory that God has given - to those who trust in the Lord Jesus.
 - And knowing that the most eternally significant thing that we can do - is to spend time serving our Savior...
 - ...Paul encouraged us to continue abounding in the work of the Lord - knowing that our labor in the Lord will benefit every believer.
 - And in this way - we will experience the Unity of Diversity - as we accomplish the Operational Activities of our church.

VI. Conclusion

● Wrap up

• Trinity

- Now - before we wrap up this study - we should take a moment consider the way that the unity of diversity is demonstrated by our God.
- Let's take another look at our text today - beginning at verse 4 - where Paul declared...

1Co 12:4 There are diversities of gifts, but the same Spirit.

1Co 12:5 There are differences of ministries, but the same Lord.

1Co 12:6 And there are diversities of activities, but it is the same God

who works all in all.

- Here in these verses - we find Paul - helping his audience to understand the unity of diversity - by alluding to the triunity of our God.
 - The Holy Spirit is the One Who distributes charismatic gifts - so that we can serve our Savior with Spiritual Abilities.
 - The Lord Jesus is the Chief Shepherd - Who ordains pastor/teachers - to create a hierarchy of Ministerial Administrations.
 - And God the Father is the One Who is working all in all - so that we can accomplish the Operational Activities of the church.
 - In this way - the Triunity of God is a perfect picture of the unity of diversity.
- Points
- With all of this in mind - I encourage you to remember that - believers should avoid the destruction caused by division...
 - ...while simultaneously realizing that - diversity among the disciples of Christ is necessary - for maintaining the unity of every Church.
1. This includes the Unity of Diversity which stems from the charismatic gifts that enable our Spiritual Abilities.
 - And seeing how every Christian has received the gifts of the Holy Spirit...
 - ...then - we will do well to become good stewards of the spiritual gifts we've received...
 - ...by using our spiritual abilities to bless our Christian congregation.
 2. The Unity of Diversity is also established by the Ministerial Administrations that the Lord has ordained.

- And seeing how the Chief Shepherd - Jesus - has appointed pastors to establish the hierarchy of Ministerial Administrations...
 - ...then - we will all do well to become those believers who are doing our part...
 - ...to promote the UNITY of the faith - as we learn to function like a single body that has many members - with different functions.
3. And finally - the Unity of Diversity - is based on the Operational Activities that we've all been called to accomplish.
- With this as our goal - it's crucial for Christians to remember that - we've all been called to do our part...
 - ...so that we might become those believers who are steadfast - immovable - and always abounding in the work of the Lord.
 - And knowing that our labor in the Lord is always time well spent - I encourage every Christian to remember that...
 - ...God wants to empower us - so that we can help maintain the Unity of Diversity.