



Church: We are  
the Body of Christ.

1 Cor 12:12-31

## **The Mission of the Church (God's Mission)**

**<sup>19</sup> Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, <sup>20</sup> teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age. (Mt 28:19-20; cf. Acts 1:8).**

God established the church to carry out his mission.

## **The Purpose of the Church**

**<sup>9</sup> But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for his own possession, that you may proclaim the excellencies of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light (1Pt 2:9).**

## **The Gifting of the Church**

**As each has received a gift, use it to serve one another, as good stewards of God's varied grace... in order that in everything God may be glorified (1Pt 4:10-11).**

## **God appoints our place.**

“<sup>18</sup> But as it is, God arranged the members in the body, each one of them, as he chose.”

**Bid Idea: God equips the body for service; therefore, we use our gifts to serve as members of the body.**

<sup>12</sup> 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. <sup>13</sup> 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. <sup>14</sup> For the body does not consist of one member but of many. <sup>15</sup> If the foot should say, "Because I am not a hand, I do not belong to the body," that would not make it any less a part of the body. <sup>16</sup> And if the ear should say, "Because I am not an eye, I do not belong to the body," that would not make it any less a part of the body.

<sup>17</sup> If the whole body were an eye, where would be the sense of hearing? If the whole body were an ear, where would be the sense of smell? <sup>18</sup> But as it is, God arranged the members in the body, each one of them, as he chose. <sup>19</sup> If all were a single member, where would the body be? <sup>20</sup> As it is, there are many parts, yet one body. <sup>21</sup> The eye cannot say to the hand, "I have no need of you," nor again the head to the feet, "I have no need of you."



<sup>22</sup> On the contrary, the parts of the body that seem to be weaker are indispensable, <sup>23</sup> and on those parts of the body that we think less honorable we bestow the greater honor, and our unpresentable parts are treated with greater modesty, <sup>24</sup> which our more presentable parts do not require. But God has so composed the body, giving greater honor to the part that lacked it, <sup>25</sup> that there may be no division in the body, but that the members may have the same care for one another. <sup>26</sup> If one member suffers, all suffer together; if one member is honored, all rejoice together.

<sup>27</sup> Now you are the body of Christ and individually members of it. <sup>28</sup> And God has appointed in the church first apostles, second prophets, third teachers, then miracles, then gifts of healing, helping, administrating, and various kinds of tongues. <sup>29</sup> Are all apostles? Are all prophets? Are all teachers? Do all work miracles? <sup>30</sup> Do all possess gifts of healing? Do all speak with tongues? Do all interpret? <sup>31</sup> But earnestly desire the higher gifts. And I will show you a still more excellent way.

**Bid Idea: God equips the body for service; therefore, we use our gifts to serve as members of the body.**

## Church: the Body of Christ.

1. Unified in Christ, by the Spirit (vv. 12-14).
2. Diversified for the body's benefit (vv. 15-27).
3. Earnestly desire the needed gifts (vv. 28-31).

## 1. Unified in Christ, by the Spirit (vv. 12-14).

<sup>12</sup> 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 <sup>13</sup> For in *one* Spirit we were all baptized into *one* body (vv. 12-13; *cf.* 6:19-20).

## Members of the Body:

- i. Remember, Jesus makes us members.
- ii. Support one another.
- iii. Become inseparable.
- iv. Move in the same direction.

2. Mixed together, for our benefit (vv. 15-27).

“But God has so mixed up the body... that there may be no division in the body, but that the members may have the same care for one another” (v. 24, 25; Heb 10:27).

## Mixed up with:

- i. Many unique parts (vv. 17-19).
- ii. Equally important parts (vv. 15-16).
- iii. Part that need the other parts (v. 21).
- iv. Parts that suffer/rejoice together (v. 26).



### 3 Applications for the body.

- i. Foster unity in the body (v. 24).
- ii. Care for the body (v. 25; Heb 10:27).
- iii. Live like Jesus' body (v. 27).

### 3. Desire gifts for the body (vv. 28-31).

God has appointed in the church first apostles, second prophets, third teachers, then miracles, then gifts of healing, helping, administrating, and various kinds of tongues ... <sup>29</sup> Are all apostles? Are all prophets? Are all teachers? Do all work miracles? <sup>30</sup> Do all possess gifts of healing? Do all speak with tongues? Do all interpret? <sup>31</sup> But earnestly desire the higher gifts.

## God defines higher gifts, not us.

- i. Remember the context (vv. 14-20).
- ii. God sovereignly appoints (vv. 11, 18, 24, 28).
- iii. God gives gifts to equip the body (vv. 7, 24).
- iv. The most precious gifts are often the ones nobody sees/hears (vv. 22-24; 1 Sam 16:7).
- v. Earnestly desire the missing gifts in the body.

Jesus's blood secures our place in the body. The Lord's Supper reminds us of this sacrifice.