

Sermon Notes



1 Corinthians 12

	Unity	Variety	Maturity
1 Corinthians	12:1-13	12:14-31	13:1-13
Romans	12:1-5	12:6-8	12:9-21
Ephesians	4:1-6	4:7-12	4:13-16

Big Idea: Your 'Buy-in' to 'Body-life' will Transform you.

Eph. 1:22-23

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

I. Unity (v.1-13)

A. Same Confession: "Jesus is Lord". (v.1-3)

Now concerning spiritual gifts, brothers, I do not want you to be uninformed. ² You know that when you were pagans you were led astray to mute idols, however you were led. ³ 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.

B. Same Dependency: God Empowers (v.4-6)

⁴ Now there are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit;⁵ and there are varieties of service, but the same Lord;⁶ and there are varieties of activities, but it is the same God who empowers them all in everyone.

C. Same Baptism: Spirit Manifests (v.7-13)

⁷ To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good. ⁸ For to one is given through the Spirit the utterance of wisdom, and to another the utterance of knowledge according to the same Spirit, ⁹ to another faith by the same Spirit, to another gifts of healing by the one Spirit, ¹⁰ to another the working of miracles, to another prophecy, to another the ability to distinguish between spirits, to another various kinds of tongues, to another the interpretation of tongues. ¹¹ All these are empowered by one and the same Spirit, who apportions to each one individually as he wills.

Utterance of wisdom- close understanding of God's word and how to apply it.

Knowledge- ability to state something you would not naturally know

Faith- confidence and trust in God

Healing- helping people find physical and spiritual healing, subject to God's will.

Miracles- 'working of powers' subject to God's divine will

Prophecy- to receive and deliver a message from God

Distinguishing spirits- distinguish, discern, judge.

Various kinds of tongues – utterance of prayer or a message in an unknown language

Interpretation of tongues- expound a message that is not understood

C. Same Baptism: Spirit Manifests (v.7-13)

¹² 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. ¹³ 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.

II. Variety (v.14-31)

A. We Need Variety (v.14-20)

¹⁴ For the body does not consist of one member but of many. ¹⁵ 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. ¹⁶ 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. ¹⁷ 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? ¹⁸ But as it is, God arranged the members in the body, each one of them, as he chose. ¹⁹ If all were a single member, where would the body be? ²⁰ As it is, there are many parts, yet one body.

B. We Need Each other (v.21-26)

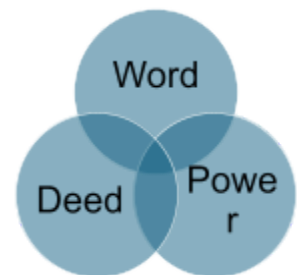
²¹ The eye cannot say to the hand, "I have no need of you," nor again the head to the feet, "I have no need of you." ²² On the contrary, the parts of the body that seem to be weaker are indispensable, ²³ and on those parts of the body that we think less honorable we bestow the greater honor, and our unpresentable parts are treated with greater modesty, ²⁴ which our more presentable parts do not require. But God has so composed the body, giving greater honor to the part that lacked it, ²⁵ that there may be no division in the body, but that the members may have the same care for one another. ²⁶ If one member suffers, all suffer together; if one member is honored, all rejoice together.

Romans 15:18-19

... to bring the Gentiles to obedience—by word and deed, ¹⁹ by the power of signs and wonders,

C. We Need to Accept God's Appointing (v.27-31)

²⁷ Now you are the body of Christ and individually members of it. ²⁸ 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. ²⁹ Are all apostles? Are all prophets? Are all teachers? Do all work miracles? ³⁰ Do all possess gifts of healing? Do all speak with tongues? Do all interpret? ³¹ But earnestly desire the higher gifts. And I will show you a still more excellent way.

Big Idea: Your 'Buy-in' to 'Body-life' will Transform you.

Study Guide



1 Corinthians 12

Big Idea: Your 'Buy-in' to 'Body-life' will Transform you.

1. How can being part of church life help to transform us? Share experiences when you have benefited from the spiritual gifts of others.

2. Read 1 Corinthians 12:1-13. Discuss the unity that we have as a church around:

- a. The same confession: "Jesus is Lord" (v.1-3)
- b. The same dependence: God empowers (v.4-6)
- c. The same baptism: The Holy Spirit manifests (v.7-13)

How has this unity benefited you? What are the hurdles people must overcome to maintain this unity? What keeps people from 'buy-in' into church life?

3. Read 1 Corinthians 12:14-31. Discuss the variety in the Body:

- a. We need variety (v. 14-20). Since we tend to value church based on our own lens and gifting, how can we learn to value the fact that there is variety?
- b. We need each other (v.21-26). How can we show honor towards all giftings? Discuss.
- c. We need to accept God's appointing (v.27-31). How have you struggled with church hurt or division? What is the "more excellent way" Paul is talking about? (Hint: Chapter 13).

Application

Take a few minutes to pray quietly and thank God for spiritual gifts in the Body! Ask God to reveal anything to you that He may be prompting you to do based on this teaching.