



## ***The First Epistle to the Corinthians***

### ***1 Corinthians 12:11-20 - The Body of Christ, Part 1***

- ***1 Corinth 12:11 – “But one and the same Spirit works all these things, distributing to each one individually as He wills.***
  - What things?
    - The various endowments.
  - Notice the freedom and flexibility of the Spirit.
    - *Heb 2:4 - God also bearing them witness, both with signs and wonders, and with divers miracles, and gifts of the Holy Ghost, according to his own will?*
      - Remember the historical timing of these things.
- ***1 Corinth 12:12 – “For as the body is one, and hath many members, and all the members of that one body, being many, are one body: so also Christ.***
  - Just as our bodies function as one, so should the body of Christ.
    - *Eph 1:23 – ‘Which is his body, the fullness of Him that fills all in all.’*



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- *Eph 5:23 - And he is the head of the body, the church: who is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead; that in all things he might have the preeminence.*
- ***1 Corinth 12:13 – “For by one Spirit we were all baptized into one body - whether Jews or Greeks, whether slaves or free - and have all been made to drink into one Spirit.”***
  - If *by one Spirit* we’re all baptized into one body why is there so much division and confusion?
  - Notice the oneness of all comers!
    - With all of the political and racial tension we are currently facing, this is an important reminder that *the body* is *one* because everyone is equal at the cross.
      - This is the only solution to the inequalities that exist today or any day for that matter.
  - How do we interpret *drink into one Spirit*?



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- *John 4:14 - "but whoever drinks of the water that I shall give him will never thirst. But the water that I shall give him will become in him a fountain of water springing up into everlasting life."*
- Could this also relate to the Lord's Table – *1 Corinth 10:17?*
- ***1 Corinth 12:14,15 – "For in fact the body is not one member but many. If the foot should say, "Because I am not a hand, I am not of the body," is it therefore not of the body?"***
  - Many of the commentators believe that this and what follows for other body parts is dealing with 'inferiors' and 'superiors' within the body; do you agree?
  - How does this apply within the human and church *body*?
    - The medical allegory here is the brain is to the body as Christ is to the church.
  - The independent nature of the members is portrayed here.



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- ***1 Corinth 12:16,17 – "And if the ear should say, "Because I am not an eye, I am not of the body," is it therefore not of the body? If the whole body were an eye, where would be the hearing? If the whole were hearing, where would be the smelling?"***
  - Is the eye superior to the ear?
    - *Prov 20:12 - The hearing ear, and the seeing eye, the LORD hath made even both of them.*
    - Aren't we thankful we don't have to make a choice of which sense to keep?
    - And we are fearfully and wonderfully made – *Psalms 139:13-16*
  - Do we need to over spiritualize the human body parts here?
    - *Rom 12:3 - For I say, through the grace given unto me, to every man that is among you, not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think; but to think soberly, according as God hath dealt to every man the measure of faith.*



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- ***1 Corinth 12:18-20 – “But now God has set the members, each one of them, in the body just as He pleased. And if they were all one member, where would the body be? But now indeed there are many members, yet one body.”***
  - *If God sets the numbers,..... just as He pleased, how do we know for sure?*
    - The life of the Lord Jesus Christ exemplified?
      - Use and service to the body?
      - Love and compassion for other members?
  - Poole – “The multiplicity of members, having several uses and offices for the service of the whole body, do not make a multiplicity of bodies, the body still is but one.”
  - Let’s not worry about what member we are but just be In Christ!