

The Body of Christ is:

An organism here on earth

In which the operations of the Spirit are found coming out in various distinctive gifts,

But all necessarily one because they are all in the power of the same Spirit.

It is the one and the same Spirit that constitutes the unity.

*<sup>12</sup> For even **as the body** is one and yet has many members, and all the members of the body, though they are many, are one body, so also is Christ.*

The manifestations of the Spirit are entirely limited to **His body**.

According to God's order

Believers do **not exercise** the spirituals (Gifts) as isolated individuals.

They are exercised as **members** of the Body of Christ and for the good of the whole body.

*<sup>12</sup> For even **as the body** is one and yet has many members, and all the members of the body, though they are many, are one body, **so also is Christ.***

The subject is the Church, but the Apostle does not say, “*so also is the church,*” but “*so also is the Christ.*”

The body is Christ's body and includes Christ and all the members.

It is His body for the expressing of Himself.

*<sup>13</sup> For by one Spirit we were all **baptized** into **one body**, whether Jews or Greeks, whether slaves or free, and we were all made to drink of **one Spirit**.*

The English word “**baptize**” comes from the Greek word *baptizō*, which basically means *to immerse or place into by immersion and never take out*.

**Baptism** in Scripture always suggests a coming on to entirely new ground, to the one Body of Christ.

The baptism of the Spirit merges all believers into one divine unity. We have **all been given to drink of one Spirit**. That is, each has found his satisfaction in drinking of the Spirit.

<sup>14</sup> *For the body is not one member, but many.*

**The human body is the most wonderful thing we have in nature.**

- 1. Circulatory System**
- 2. Respiratory System**
- 3. Skeletal System**
- 4. Muscular System**
- 5. Integumentary System**
- 6. Digestive System**
- 7. Nervous System**
- 8. Endocrine System**
- 9. Excretory/Urinary System**
- 10. Lymphatic System**
- 11. Reproductive System**

**Paul shows that, as the human body has been constituted to work as **one united whole** to the exclusion of all disorder.**

- The body consists of not one member but many.
- It could not be called "**the body**" if it consisted of but one member, and not of many.
- The beautiful unity with diversity is seen in the human body.

**So should it be in the Church.**

<sup>15</sup> *If the **foot** says, "**Because I am not a hand, I am not a part of the body,**" it is not for this reason any the less a part of the body.*

<sup>16</sup> *And if the **ear** says, "**Because I am not an eye, I am not a part of the body,**" it is not for this reason any the less a part of the body.*

- Paul warns against **the dissatisfaction of members with their position.**
- This kind of separation, if carried out, would destroy the Church.
- Each member has its own function for the Body of Christ, **not for itself**, as the foot and hand, the eye and ear, act for the entire body.

*17 If the whole body were an eye, where would the hearing be?  
If the whole were hearing, where would the sense of smell be?*

The ridiculousness of such thinking is shown here.

If one member might desire lawfully some special place, so might all the rest; the consequence of which would be the ruin of the body.

The splendid coordination and subordination of the various members in the one body would be at an end.



*<sup>18</sup> But now **God has placed the members**, each one of them, in the body, just as He desired.*

- The Body of Christ/ the Church is according to God's design and constitution, **each is set in a place arranged by God in the Body of Christ with a gift suitable for it.**
- Any other ordering is at issue with God's ways and pleasure.
- It is the Lord Jesus Christ's Church; and **He, not man, orders the place of each and all in it.**

*<sup>19</sup> If they were all one member, **where would the body be?***

- The self importance of one member would do away with the body, **there would be no body.**
- If all the members of the human body were the same, it would **not be able to function as a body.**
- It would be incapable of getting anything accomplished.

*<sup>20</sup> But now there are many members, but one body.*

- Each one is set in just the right way; I must not be discontented with what pleases God!
- The body is a most wonderful concept because every member is perfect, and functions in their own office.
- All function in unity, and the fact that you can only see it in God's Word, makes it more precious.

<sup>21</sup> *And the eye **cannot** say to the hand, "I have no need of you";  
or again the head to the feet, "I have no need of you."*

- In Christianity today, **the eye does say**, in present practice, to the hand, **I have no need of you** and the head to the feet, **I have no need of you**.
- The truth, stated by Paul proves that, as this practice cannot be without ruin in the natural body, so is the Body of Christ framed in the grace of God.
- Just as the systems of the physical body need one another to function, so do the members of the church need one another to function in manifesting Christ.