

Call to Worship— Romans 6:1-11

Sermon Text— 1 Corinthians 12:12-14

Benediction— Ephesians 2:13-22

Text — 1 Corinthians 12:12-14 ESV

[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.

[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. (ESV)

NEXT WEEK: “Arranged” 1 Corinthians 12:15-26 *Chuck out*

Outline: “One”

- **INTRO**— “Now concerning spiritual gifts, brothers, I do not want you to be uninformed.” Here in Paul’s response concerning SPIRITUAL GIFTS, he has humbled his audience, these pagan mute idol obeyers, who now have unity and strength due to the saving power of God. United as Christ confessors and followers, Paul established the triune source of these grace gifts that including their divine purpose as well as the practical consequence of the common & greater good. Having provided a non-exhaustive roll call of specific gifts (as we saw echoed in Romans 12) we see yet again the diversity of the gifts yet the reader is forced to contend with the unity expected to be seen as plainly as the gifts themselves (Observable gifts being used for the common good and the mission). Today we take a glimpse at the subject and setup for his long illustration about feet, hands, ears, eyes, etc. That theme is unity, oneness, that begins with an attack on status, pride, and partiality.
- **TRANSITION**— READ v1-11; AND...
[John 15:5 ESV] 5 I am the vine; you are the branches. Whoever abides in me and I in him, he it is that bears much fruit, for apart from me you can do nothing.
- v12 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.
 - “For JUST AS...” An approved illustration (commentary— NCT hermeneutic)
 - THE body (aka the one you’re wearing and operating) is...
 - ONE body but MANY members AND... MANY members but ONE body
 - NO MATTER HOW YOU LOOK AT IT
 - So it is with Christ... (setup for the next verse But first)
 - With is also INCLUSIVE, proximity and union WITH Christ.. “I’m with Christ”
 - From just as it is to “so it is” we have a perfect example and picture one that requires consideration and a point that cannot be overlooked, as it is being set up as a standard by which gifts are authenticated and EVEN churches are authenticated as they use them (gifts) in and for the sake of unity [common good]

- v13 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.
 - HOW is it that we are WITH Christ and by designation “one”?
 - Baptized into one spirit (all believers)
 - All = regardless of former distinctions; aka Jews, Greeks, slaves, free etc
 - Made to drink of one Spirit (share the same Spirit, given the one Spirit to drink,
 - phrase “made to drink” furnished drink, to be irrigated like crops, metaphor for saturated aka LAVISHED (these GRACE gifts come from an endless supply of grace)
 - AGAIN passive non-cooperative wording— he provides the “grace””spirit” water to drink and we drink it like a plant that soaks up moisture from the ground (transpiration- evaporation causes a draw of moisture through the roots, using your gifts “displaying them” we need to be rooted in the Spirit and draw from this endless grace resource.)
- v14 For the body does not consist of one member but of many.
 - Indicative— NASB For the body is not one member, but many.
 - The body (the church, the assembly, the members) functioning and observable
 - DOES NOT consist (IS NOT, does not exist in any other form)
 - ONE member (one limb only) but MANY
 - ONE body but MANY members? YES
 - MANY members but ONE body? YES
 - ONE member and ONE body? NO or ONE body of ONE member? NO
 - PERIOD end of discussion (so in the next section of this letter let me illustrate how ridiculous it would be)

CONCLUSION: “For the body...”

This argument, this informing, is empty if you are not part of the body, by faith. We can talk about what part you are and what function you have, but that’s a moot point if you are not united to Christ. We’ve got to get the vertical right before we can get to the horizontal unity and mission. No Jesus? YOU are not part of the body, the good news of the good news keeps the cart and the horse hitched up correctly. Come to Jesus, have your sins forgiven, be baptized, walk in newness of life. The Spirit does the work, he calls, he makes new, he equips, he sustains. THIS IS GOOD NEWS!