

1 Corinthians 12:12-31
"It's Time to be Holy"

"The Church is everywhere represented as one. It is one body, one family, one fold, one kingdom. It is one because pervaded by one Spirit. We are all baptized into one Spirit so as to become, says the apostle, one body." (Charles Hodge)

Introduction:

1 Corinthians 12:12-13, "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."

1. The individual parts of the body do not compose a complete body:

2. It is by the baptism of the Holy Spirit that:

3. All who have the Spirit of Christ—Jew, Gentile, man, woman, free or slaves are:

1 Corinthians 12:14-26, "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,^[e] yet one body.

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."

1. It would be absurd for the human body part to disown the rest of the body and:

2. It would be absurd for the human body to be made up of only one member and:

3. Even though there are distinctions in the different members of the body of Christ:

4. It is the variety in the body of Christ that:

5. In the same way that God designed our human bodies as He pleased:

6. In the same way that our whole body feels the effects of whatever is going on in its members:

1 Corinthians 12:27-31a, "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...."

1. The whole church throughout all the ages is the body of Christ and:

2. The whole church or body of Christ is arranged:

a. Apostles: Those entrusted with:

b. Prophets: Those entrusted with:

c. Teachers: Those entrusted with:

d. Miracle workers: Those entrusted with:

e. Gifts of healing: Those entrusted with:

f. Helps: Those entrusted with:

g. Administration: Those entrusted with:

h. Tongues: Those entrusted with:

i. Interpretation: Those entrusted with:

3. The gifts are placed in their proper ranks according to:

4. The gifts are distributed freely among the believers with:

5. We are to desire the gifts that:

Conclusion: Not only has Paul been encouraging the believers in Corinth to live holy lives. He has been encouraging them to live in unity. What he has taught us in chapter 12 is that we can never say to another member of the body of Christ, "I have no need of you."