

Cornerstone Faith of West Liberty  
1 Corinthians 12:12-31 – the body of Christ Jesus

I. One body many parts (12:12–27) (unity with diversity)

A. Baptisms—a brief review (12:13)

- John baptized with water unto repentance (Matt. 3:11; Mark 1:8; Luke 3:16; Acts 13:24, 19:4) for forgiveness of sin  
**Acts 19:4 (NKJV)** *Then Paul said, "John indeed baptized with a baptism of repentance, saying to the people that they should believe on Him who would come after him, that is, on Christ Jesus."*
- All Christians are baptized by Spirit and drink (receive) the same Spirit (salvation) (Rom. 6:3; 8:9; 1 Cor. 12:13; Gal. 3:27)  
**1 Corinthians 12:13 (NKJV)** *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.*
- Jesus baptizes with the Holy Spirit and fire (Matt. 3:11; Mark 1:8; Luke 3:16) and not water (John 4:2) [this is different than baptism by Holy Spirit into body at salvation—often called being filled with the Holy Spirit]  
**Acts 1:5 (NKJV)** *for John truly baptized with water, but you shall be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now."*

B. One body of many members (12:14-27)

1. Every part of the body is a part of the body
  - a. To be a believer is to be a part of the body of Christ  
**Romans 12:3 (NKJV)** *For I say, through the grace given to me, to everyone who is among you, not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think, but to think soberly, as God has dealt to each one a measure of faith.*
  - b. the body has different parts so it can function  
**Philippians 2:3-4 (NKJV)** *Let nothing be done through selfish ambition or conceit, but in lowliness of mind let each esteem others better than himself. <sup>4</sup> Let each of you look out not only for his own interests, but also for the interests of others.*
2. God places us where He wills  
**Ephesians 1:5 (NKJV)** *having predestined us to adoption as sons by Jesus Christ to Himself, according to the good pleasure of His will.*
3. The body needs each different part to function normally  
**Romans 12:10-16 (NKJV)** *Be kindly affectionate to one another with brotherly love, in honor giving preference to one another; <sup>11</sup> not lagging in diligence, fervent in spirit, serving the Lord; <sup>12</sup> rejoicing in hope, patient in tribulation, continuing steadfastly in prayer; <sup>13</sup> distributing to the needs of the saints, given to hospitality...<sup>15</sup> Rejoice with those who rejoice, and weep with those who weep. <sup>16</sup> Be of the same mind toward one another. Do not set your mind on high things, but associate with the humble. Do not be wise in your own opinion.*
4. We need each other  
**Ecclesiastes 4:9-11 (NKJV)** *Two are better than one, Because they have a good reward for their labor. <sup>10</sup> For if they fall, one will lift up his companion. But woe to him who is alone when he falls, For he has no one to help him up. <sup>11</sup> Again, if two lie down together, they will keep warm; But how can one be warm alone?*
5. Some parts seen and some hidden—all important
  - a. More honor (attention) is given to the part that lacks

b. Must be no schism in the body (1 Cor. 1:10-13—schism in following different leaders; 1 Cor. 11:17-22—schism at Lord's table)

6. When one part suffers, we all suffer (Acts 12:5; Rom. 15:30-32; Heb. 13:3; Matt. 5:44)

**Hebrews 13:3 (NKJV)** *Remember the prisoners as if chained with them--those who are mistreated--since you yourselves are in the body also.*

7. Bookends (12 & 27)

## II. Order of the gifts—foundational upwards

### A. God has appointed (also used in verse 18)

- Each member is set in the body of Christ (12:18) where God wants us to be placed

### B. Order of gifts (some additional gifts mentioned)

1. Apostles - to be sent forth to new frontiers with the gospel, providing leadership over church bodies and maintaining authority over spiritual matters
2. Prophets – one endowed with the gift of prophecy (Hearing and communicating the voice of God through various means to others accurately in a manner that edifies, exhorts and comforts)
3. Teachers - to instruct others in the Bible in a logical, systematic way so as to communicate pertinent information for true understanding and growth
4. Miracles - Spirit empowered ability to do what is unexplained through natural laws as He wills
  - Discussed last week
5. Gifts of healings - Spirit empowered ability to bring restoration to body, mind, or emotion as He wills
  - Discussed last week
6. Helps - to render support or assistance to others in the body so as to free them up for ministry
7. Administrations - to steer the body toward the accomplishment of God-given goals and directives by planning, organizing, and supervising others (Greek Word: kubernesis - to steer, guide, helmsmen)
8. Tongues - ability to speak a natural language you do not know often for the purpose of evangelism

### C. Does everyone have all the gifts? (12:29-30)

- Paul goes through a series of questions that demand a negative (no) response to establish that God wants a variety of gifts functioning in the body

### D. Earnest desire (12:31)

- Earnestly desire is plural—means that Corinth as a congregation is to seek the best gifts

## III. Challenge Questions

- Are you part of the body of Jesus?
- Are you taking your part in the body of Jesus Christ (remember one part not doing its part correctly is called disease)
- Are you following the head—Jesus Christ—by using your gift?