



MESSAGE/SERIES:

Restoration Series “Diversity in the Body of Christ”

DATE: February 23, 2020

SCRIPTURE FOR THIS WEEK:

(These verses will help you understand themes within as you read our core text as scripture proves scripture)

1 Corinthians 12, *Ephesians 4:7-13*, *Romans 12*, *1 Peter 4:10-11*, *1 Timothy 4:14*,
Romans 9:22-26, **Galatians 1:8-12** (*Gifts magnify one Gospel*), **Galatians 3:27-29**
(*Baptism of Spirit/regeneration marks believers*),

OPENING SCRIPTURE:

[1 CORINTHIANS 12]

1 Now concerning **spiritual gifts**, brothers, I do not want you to be uninformed.

2 You know that when you were pagans you were led astray to mute idols, however you were led.

3 Therefore I want you to understand that **no one speaking in the Spirit of God ever says “Jesus is accursed!”** and no one can say “Jesus is Lord” except in the Holy Spirit.

4 Now there are **varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit;**

5 and there are **varieties of service, but the same Lord;**

6 and there are **varieties of activities, but it is the same God who empowers them** all in everyone.

7 **To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good.**

8 For to one is given through the Spirit the utterance of wisdom, and to another the utterance of knowledge according to the same Spirit,

9 to another faith by the same Spirit, to another gifts of healing by the one Spirit,
10 to another the working of miracles, to another prophecy, to another the ability to distinguish between spirits, to another various kinds of tongues, to another the interpretation of tongues.

11 All these are empowered by one and the same Spirit, who apportions to each one individually as he wills.

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.

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.

27 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. And I will show you a still more excellent way.*

The Holy Bible: English Standard Version (Wheaton, IL: Crossway Bibles, 2016), 1 Co 12:1–31.

BACKGROUND & OTHER STUDY HELPS:

[PROPHECY] “Paul indicates that prophesying is not necessarily a sign of godliness; pagans prophesied, too, and at Greek oracular shrines possessed persons prophesied ecstatically, inspired by gods other than the Christian God. Although interest in oracles had declined in this period, oracles and other forms of divination remained a strong influence on pagan culture. Paul can thus point to his readers’ former behavior in paganism as a warning that ecstatic activity *by itself* cannot constitute proof that they are obeying God.”

Craig S. Keener, *The IVP Bible Background Commentary: New Testament* (Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press, 1993), 1 Co 12:1.

“Some magicians sought to perform healings and miracles (12:9–10), but outside Christianity there are no ancient parallels to these events as a regular occurrence within a local congregation. The gift of “discerning spirits” was particularly useful for judging prophecy (cf. 14:29; 1 Jn 4:1).”

Craig S. Keener, *The IVP Bible Background Commentary: New Testament* (Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press, 1993), 1 Co 12:4.

[SPIRITUAL GIFTS] “The *charismata*, or special endowments of supernatural energy, such as prophecy and speaking with tongues. “Before this consciousness of a higher power than their own, the ordinary and natural faculties of the human mind seemed to retire, to make way for loftier aspirations, more immediate intimations of the divine will, more visible manifestations of the divine power.... It resembled in some degree the inspiration of the Jewish judges, psalmists, and prophets; it may be illustrated by the ecstasies and visions of prophets in all religions; but in its energy and universality it was peculiar to the christian society of the apostolic age” (Stanley).

Marvin Richardson Vincent, *Word Studies in the New Testament*, vol. 3 (New York: Charles Scribner’s Sons, 1887), 254.

[CALLED JESUS ACCURSED] (λέγει Ἀνάθεμα Ἰησοῦς). Lit., *saith Anathema Jesus*. Rev., preserving the formula, *saith Jesus is Anathema*. Compare Acts 18:6, and see on *offerings*, Luke 21:5. Paul uses only the form ἀνάθεμα, and always in the sense of *accursed*.”

Marvin Richardson Vincent, *Word Studies in the New Testament*, vol. 3 (New York: Charles Scribner's Sons, 1887), 255.

[V3] “Paul apparently believed that some of the Corinthians’ problems were due not entirely to their worldly attitudes (3:3) but also to the presence of false teachers who preyed on **their spiritual immaturity** and exacerbated the problems. The pagan background out of which many had come (and some were still coming; cf. 8:10; 10:14, 20–21) did not help them ascertain the presence of false prophets. When they **were pagans**, they had been **influenced and led astray to dumb idols** (12:2). Certainly lifeless idols are totally helpless in such matters! (In the Corinthians’ vaunted wisdom they showed themselves to be unusually gullible [cf. 2 Cor. 11:1–21, esp. 19–20].)”

David K. Lowery, “1 Corinthians,” in *The Bible Knowledge Commentary: An Exposition of the Scriptures*, ed. J. F. Walvoord and R. B. Zuck, vol. 2 (Wheaton, IL: Victor Books, 1985), 532.

REFERENCES TO UNITY/DIVERSITY/MATURITY

	Unity	Diversity	Maturity
1 Corinthians	12:1–13	12:14–31	13:1–13
Romans	12:1–5	12:6–8	12:9–21
Ephesians	4:1–6	4:7–12	4:13–16

Warren W. Wiersbe, *The Bible Exposition Commentary*, vol. 1 (Wheaton, IL: Victor Books, 1996), 607.

OUTLINE:

I. GIFTS & GIVER (v1-11)

- A. (v3) All gifts were given to **magnify the Lord Jesus**
 - 1. *If a gift magnifies man it is not of God*
 - 2. *Every individual claiming Spiritual Giftedness but yet does not claim Jesus as Lord is not being lead of the Holy Spirit*
- B. (v4-6) Many different Gifts are given-
 - 1. (v4) (Source) *But all Spiritual Gifts are from the Spirit of God*

2. (v5) (Supervision) *But all Spiritual Gifts are guided by the Lord for His purposes*
 3. (v6) (Service) *But all Spiritual Gift are given their power and direction of use by God*
- C. (v7) All Gifts are given for the Good of the Body of Christ as a whole
1. *Each believer is given at least one gift but no believer has every gift*
 2. *In ministering to believers (Care/Discipleship)*
 - a) *To make the church more effective in building the Kingdom*
 3. *In ministering to non believers (Evangelism/means of common grace)*
 - a) *To make the church effective in building the Kingdom*
- D. (v8-10) (28) Individual Gifts found in 1 Corinthians 12:
- A. **Wisdom** (12:8a)
 - B. **Knowledge** (12:8b)
 - C. **Faith** (12:9a)
 - D. **Healing** (12:9b, 28e)
 - E. **Miracles** (12:10a, 28d)
 - F. **Prophecy** (12:10b, 28b)
 - G. **Discernment** (12:10c)
 - H. **Tongues** (12:10d, 28h)
 - I. **Interpretation of Tongues** (12:10e)
 - J. **Apostleship** (12:28a)
 - K. **Teaching** (12:28c)
 - L. **Helping** (12:28f)
 - M. **Administration** (12:28g)

II. NEED & NECESSITY (v12-25)

- A. (v12) One Body or Unit is a representation of the Church Family
 1. **Universal church** *(every believer who has ever lived world-wide)*
 2. **Local church** *(every true believer that assembles under the God ordained leadership in that location)*
- B. (v13) Every member of the Body of Christ was **baptized into its membership...** (Spiritual Baptism/ and symbolically through physical baptism)
 1. *If the Lord called you into the family of God He regenerated your heart (gave you spiritual eyes to see)... Spiritual regeneration is*

Spiritual Baptism (*The Holy Spirit coming into your life producing Faith & Repentance*)

2. *Spiritual Baptism has nothing to do with earthly identification (Gentile or Jew)*
- C. (v14) The Body is designed to be many individual parts functioning as one
- D. (v15-17) Need is built into the body of Christ (you cannot do ministry alone)
 1. *Each individual needs every part God has sent to do what God has commanded*
 2. *The Church Corporately needs every person doing their part to honor what God has commanded*
 3. *Those who do not get the concept of unity and diversity in the body are ineffective alone*
- E. (v18) God appoints and arranges the members of the body and where they will serve
 1. *He calls*
 2. *He endows each member with gifts*
 3. *He draws people together for a common purpose*
- F. (v19-21) Each member should respect God's calling and appointment and should move as the Spirit of God raises up the resources
 1. *There should be a growing dependence on one another as God reveals the giftedness of the members of the body*
- G. (v22-25) The weaker or less visible parts and gifts have great purpose
 1. (v22) **Weaker parts**- *without strength- possibly a reference to (Social Status/the poor)*
 2. (v23) **Presentable parts**- *Leaders or seen parts of the church*
 3. (v24) **Part which lacked**- *God gives greater honor to the unseen/less seen parts of the body*
 4. (v25) **Same concern** for every part
 - a) *Which provides for them to serve and give as they can*
 - b) *Which provides equal recognition and view from church as a whole*

III. UNITY & USEFULNESS (v26-31)

- A. Suffering is shared
 1. If one member of the body feels pain the whole body is effected
 - a) *Their part and gifts are missing and needed therefore affect effectiveness*

- b) *We are called to bear and share the burdens of the other members of the church family*
 - (1) *Glatians 6:2-3 “Bear one another’s burdens, and so fulfill the law of Christ. For if anyone thinks he is something, when he is nothing, he deceives himself.”*
 - c) *We are part of one another and should protect the body in every way (honor & Suffer as one)*
 - (1) *Protect the Spiritual health*
 - (2) *Engage in physical help and support*
 - (3) *Provide Emotional Support*
2. (v28-30) God appoints the order and importance of Gifts (the assignments have nothing to do with man)
- a) *This order reflects building blocks and the importance of God’s instruction*
 - (1) *Apostles (no longer see apostles as they walked physically with Jesus)- they were the foundation,*
 - (2) *Prophets (Received new revelation for the early church), also can be seen as proclaiming God’s word in the sense of our modern preachers,*
 - (3) *Teachers (those sharing and discipling with the ability to understand and apply God’s word accurately,*
 - (4) *then all of the rest following behind these...(All important)*
3. (v31) Paul says seek the higher gifts
- a) *These are the gifts that benefit the body and not self*
 - b) *Pursuing what is of the deepest concern for the mission of the church*
 - c) *This verse transitions into the love chapter in 1 Corinthians*

-----Message from Pastor Michael-----
Church,

We need everyone to be all they can be for the Lord. The church is made of many different and beautiful parts that are all useful and God honoring when we serve together. Everyone questions how the church should look and function, but what we can see from this passage is that if you are called to a local church as a true follower of Christ; you have a role! We are not to divide the body into factions when we can help it but

