

## THE CHURCH: MANY MEMBERS, ONE BODY

1 Corinthians 12:12-26

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- 1. See charts of the human body with names, systems, etc.
- 2. **1 Corinthians 12:12-30** – Holy Spirit gives us a “chart” of the body of Christ (church), displaying its **unity** as **individual** parts join together to function effectively as a church of Christ.

### I. WE ARE THE BODY OF CHRIST

- A. The Church is **One Body** with **Many Members** – **12:12, 20, 27**.
- 1. Baptized into one body – **12:13; cf. Acts 2:41, 47**.
- -We all share a common faith, conversion, fellowship & goal.
- 2. Body can *grow & function effectively* – **Ephesians 4:15-16; Colossians 2:19**.

### I. WE ARE THE BODY OF CHRIST

- B. The Body Illustrates Our **Unity in Christ** – **12:12 (Ephesians 4:3-6), 25**.
- - The local church is to be united – **1 Corinthians 1:10, 13**.

### II. THE BODY (CHURCH): MANY MEMBERS.

- A. God has **Designed** the **Church** (body) to **Achieve His Purposes** – **12:18 (28); Romans 12:4-5**.
- 1. Different gifts – Same Spirit – **12:4**. (we all have been blessed)
- 2. Different ministries – Same Lord – **12:5**. (we render different services)
- 3. Different activities (effects – NASB) – Same God – **12:6**. (through different ways)

### II. THE BODY (CHURCH): MANY MEMBERS.

- B. **Each Member** of the Body of Christ:
  - 1. Is vital – **12:14-19**.
  - a. Young person who sets a godly example (**1 Timothy 4:12**).
  - b. Elderly saint whose endurance inspires others.
  - c. The class teacher, preacher, song leader, etc. (**Ephesians 4:11-12**)

## II. THE BODY (CHURCH): MANY MEMBERS.

- 2. *Is needed* – 12:20-22.
- a. 12:21 - No one is to be like Diotrephes – 3 John 9.
- b. 12:22 – Weaker members are necessary, too. (*Humility* toward all is necessary – Romans 12:3, 16; Philippians 2:3)

## II. THE BODY (CHURCH): MANY MEMBERS.

- 3. *Is honorable* – 12:23-24.
- - 12:24 – Just as we adorn our body so that all parts are honorably presented (modest), God has arranged the body of Christ (church) in such a way that the honor of every member is displayed.

## II. THE BODY (CHURCH): MANY MEMBERS.

- 4. *Has mutual care for one another* – 12:25-27.
- a. 12:25 – cf. helping one another remain faithful – Galatians 6:1-2; 1 Thessalonians 5:14.
- b. 12:26 – In Christ we are to *care* for one another, *depend* upon each other in joy & sorrow, in life & death – Romans 12:5, 10-16.

## III. APPLYING THE PRINCIPLE.

- A. We Must **Respect** Our **Head** (*Christ*) in All Things – Colossians 3:17.
- 1. In what we believe, teach and practice.
- 2. Insist on Bible authority!

## III. APPLYING THE PRINCIPLE.

- B. We Must **Do Our Part** So the **Body** Properly **Functions** – Ephesians 4:16.
- 1. Individuals function which works for the good of the whole.
- 2. When you or I do not do our part the body suffers!
- a. Are you teaching or will you be teaching a Bible class?
- b. Are you praying for your brethren?
- c. Are you encouraging others in word & actions?

## III. APPLYING THE PRINCIPLE.

- C. We Must Endeavor to **Keep Unity** Among Us – 12:12; Ephesians 4:3.
- 1. So that no schism occurs – 12:25.
- 2. A fractured body is unable to function adequately and without proper care leads to pain!

## CONCLUSION

- 1. None of us can do everything, but all of us can do something!
- 2. May everything we do honor Christ & His body, the church.