

Message #53

I Corinthians 12:12-19

In the context of I Corinthians, we can assume Paul wanted the believers to also realize that God's Spirit had put these believers in that local church and that everyone was necessary and important.

Regardless of the gift, every believer was a necessary part of the body of Christ and part of the church for all were the sovereign work of the Holy Spirit.

GOD'S SPIRIT HAS PUT ALL BELIEVERS INTO THE BODY OF CHRIST AND GIVEN VARIOUS GIFTS TO BELIEVERS WHICH ARE ALL EQUALLY NECESSARY AND IMPORTANT.

FACT #1 – Christ's body is one like the human body is one. **12:12**

The conjunction "for" which begins **verse 12** gives further explanation and illustration of what was said in the previous verses, namely, God's Spirit distributes different gifts to believers according to His will.

To illustrate the point, Paul uses as his illustration the human body.

In fact, the word "member," which shows up many times in this context, is a word that refers to a limb or part of the body. So Paul's first point is just as there are various limbs and parts to the human body, so also there are various parts to the body of Jesus Christ.

The point is significant just as every part is needed to have a healthy human body, so every part is needed to have a healthy church. If the church is to function properly, every believer must recognize he or she is significant to the work of God in that church.

Every member is a body part and God will use each body part to accomplish His work. The more each member takes his/her responsibilities seriously, the stronger the church.

The more each member is disciplined in exercising his or her spiritual abilities, the stronger the body becomes.

FACT #2 – Every member has been placed into one body by one Spirit. **12:13**

The conjunction "for" which begins the verse explains how every member got into Christ's body, namely, by the baptism of the Holy Spirit. The common denominator of EVERY member of Christ's body IS NOT that they have the same gift or function, but that each member has the same Spirit of God.

Two key verbs "baptize" and "drink" are passive, indicating that the person was not involved in the action of receiving the Holy Spirit or in being baptized by the Holy Spirit. It was totally and completely the work of God.

These verbs completely negate the possibility of a human doing anything in order to gain or receive the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit is given by God when a person believes on Jesus Christ. Getting the Holy Spirit and getting into Christ's body IS NOT an action of man; IT IS a gift of God.

FACT #3 – Christ's body parts are many like the human body parts are many. **12:14**

Just as **verse 12** emphasizes that Christ's body is one, **verse 14** emphasizes that Christ's body parts are many.

FACT #4 – Every part of the body is an important part of the body regardless of what is thought or said. **12:15-16**

It is possible for one member to think or say because I don't have a particular function, I am not part of the body; however, such thinking is not Biblical, it is not reality and it is absurd.

According to Paul, there is a tendency for the less noticeable gifted member to think little of his own significance and become jealous of the more noticeable gifted member. Every member of Christ's body is important.

You don't have to be public or flashy to be necessary. You are needed and important by virtue of the fact God's Spirit singled you out and saved you and has placed you in Christ's body.

FACT #5 – Every part is necessary to make a complete body. **12:17**

It is impossible to have a complete body without a variety of parts. Various gifts and abilities are used and necessary. If the body were just one part, you could not have a complete body. If the body of Christ only had one gift, we would not be a complete body.

FACT #6 – Every member has been placed into the body by God. **12:18**

The verb "placed" is middle voice meaning God has placed and fixed the various parts of the body for and by Him. God has put people with various gifts and abilities in this, His church, as He Himself has desired. If you don't like your gift or if you are jealous of someone else's gift, go argue with God for He is the one who did everything and takes full credit for it.

The Corinthians wished they could put the body together as it pleased them; however, Paul says God has put His body together as it has pleased Him.

FACT #7 – If every member were the same, there would not be a body. **12:19**

A body requires many parts. Each distinct part is needed, is important, and each is part of the whole. If we were all the same, we would not have a body, we would have a deformity. It is no coincidence that you are in this church. Stay faithful, stay committed and stay involved for you are needed and you will be rewarded.