

The Body of Christ, Spiritual Gifts, and Spiritual Maturity, Part 6
“Contentedness in the Body of Christ”
1 Corinthians 12:27-31a

- Ordinary and Permanent
- Pastors and Teachers

- These are what Paul terms the “best” gifts, or the “greater” gifts (v. 31), since they particularly serve the edification of the church.

How to know great contentedness with my place of service in the Church.

1. Glory in the Church!

v. 27

*“Now you are the body of Christ,
and members individually.”*

**(1) Glory in the privilege of being a part
of something so glorious!**

- “You (pl.) are *the* body of Christ” - no definite article in the Gk.
 - Omission stresses the *quality* of the noun – “You are Christ’s body”
 - Each local church is a manifestation of the body of Christ
- Glory in the church – the whole church – in all of its wonderful parts!

(2) Glory in the privilege of *your particular place* in it. *“...and members individually.”*

- God’s gift to me is indeed a gift! And one of the sweet benefits of His saving work.
- Am I using the gift God has given me?
 - I will find great contentment and joy in using my gift for service.

2. Glory in God’s Good and Wise Appointment in these Things! vv. 28-30

(1) He has given Gifts of various applications and of differing strategic benefit

- “Word” gifts and “Deed” gifts *“And God has appointed these in the church:
first apostles, second prophets, third teachers,
after that miracles, then gifts of healings,
helps, administrations, varieties of tongues.”*
- Gifts which particularly manifest His power
- Gifts which are of a “one-anothering” nature

(2) He has given Gifts which serve a vital place in the sanctification of the body

- The “Word” gifts: apostles, prophets, teachers
 - Extraordinary and Temporary - Crucial to the foundational stage of the church
 - apostles, NT prophets

(3) All of this comes from God’s sovereign hand!

*“And God has appointed
these in the church:”*

- 1- A recurring emphasis in this chapter! cf. 12:11, 18
- 2- Paul presses this point by means of his questions: *“Are all Apostles? Are all prophets?
Are all teachers?...”*
 - The form of the questions presumes a *negative* answer:
“No, all are not; only some are.”
 - Can I rest in this – in His wise and sovereign appointment? Can I glory in it?

3. Earnestly Desire the Best Gifts!

“But earnestly desire the best gifts.” v. 31a

How?

- By praying that we might have these gifts in abundance
- By praying for these gifts in their exercise – for their fruitfulness of these gifts
- By pray to be properly receiving of them – to benefit from them

Further Application