

The Body of Christ, Spiritual Gifts, and Spiritual Maturity, Part 4
“The Church as the Body of Christ”
1 Corinthians 12:12-13

The Apostle introduces a metaphor according to which we are to understand the nature of the Church.

1. The Nature of the Church Described

v. 12

(1) A Living Organism with Many Members *“For as the body is one and has many members, but all the members of that one body, being many, are one body, so also is Christ.”*

- A body is *one body*, though it has many members. This is God’s design.
- The members of a body cannot exist apart from the body!
- They have no purpose apart from the body of which they are members!

(2) All the Members of the Body – though Many – are One Body!

- The members of the human body are many and diverse, but still have a God-designed unity!

(3) So also is Christ! We are His body!

2. The Formation of the Church Described

v. 13

(1) All believers are baptized into one body *“For by (in) one Spirit we were all baptized into one body – whether Jews or Greeks, whether slaves of free – and have all been made to drink into one Spirit.”*

Spirit baptism:

- 1- What does it mean, to be baptized in the Spirit?
We have been united to Christ; joined to Him; made partakers of the Spirit of Christ.

-2- **Who** are those who have been baptized in the Spirit?

All believers share in the gift of the Spirit (Rom. 8:9).
They do so from the time of their incorporation into the body of Christ.

-3- **When** did this happen?

At our conversion. When we were united to Christ we were given the Holy Spirit.

-4- **Who** brought this about? Who baptized us in the Spirit? Jesus Christ

(2) All believers are baptized in the Spirit, whatever their background or social status!

“whether Jews or Greeks, whether slaves of free”

-1- The “middle wall” between Jew and Gentile had been removed!

- Native Jews had no superior spiritual standing in the church

-2- All were made “free men” in Christ!

(3) All believers have been made to drink of one Spirit *“and have all been made to drink into one Spirit.”*

- Parallel here to the baptism in the Spirit

- This took place at the time of regeneration

- Jesus caused us to drink of the Holy Spirit *“made to drink”* - Note the passive voice;

- Cf. John 7:37-39 How does one drink? By believing in Jesus!

Further Application