

1 Corinthians Study 19

Read 1 Corinthians 12:12-31

KEY VERSE—

“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.” (12:13)

SUMMARY—

Even though the spiritual gifts given to brethren were very diverse, their design was to unite the body. Allowing these gifts to divide this diversely-gifted church was the worst response they could make (12:12). Christianity is the great equalizer (12:13-14). If the ungifted brother is jealous of the gifted brother, or the gifted brother thinks himself greater than the ungifted brother, then both have missed the significance of the “one body” relationship. Paul first addresses those who might think they are unimportant to the body because of what they are not (12:15-20). Then he turns to the others who might think they are more important to the body because of what they are, while the others are unimportant—God honors the weaker members, and by doing so, honors the body (12:21-27). Finally, God has appointed certain people and gifts for the benefit of the church. Not everyone has such gifts, but there is a far greater way than these things which everyone can follow (12:28-31).

QUESTIONS—

- 1) In the giving of these diverse gifts to Christians, we see a oneness of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit (12:4-6). How is the “body of Christ” to be the same as this oneness of Christ Himself (12:12)?
- 2) Even though there was a diversity of gifts given by the Spirit, there was also something of the Spirit that they were completely united in—what was it (12:13; cf. John 3:3-5; Acts 2:38; Titus 3:5)?
- 3) In what way are we all “made to drink into one Spirit” (12:13; cf. John 7:37-39)?
- 4) What do some seem to be suggesting about those who have not received the operation of spiritual gifts (12:15-20)?

5) Whose perspective is being addressed in 12:15-20? What seems to be their problem?

6) Whose perspective is being addressed in 12:21-27? What seems to be their problem?

7) What two points does Paul use to express the importance of having them be different, rather than having all the same gifts?

⇒ 12:18—

⇒ 12:19—

8) What should be our response to one another?

⇒ 12:21-22—

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⇒ 12:23-25a—

⇒ 12:25b—

⇒ 12:26—

9) Why has God given greater honor to the parts that are lacking it (12:24-25)?

10) What is true about the honor which one receives as part of the body (12:26b)?

11) Describe each of these things which God has appointed in the church:

⇒ Apostles—

⇒ Prophets—

⇒ Teachers—

⇒ Miracles—

⇒ Gifts Of Healings—

⇒ Helps—

⇒ Administrations—

⇒ Varieties of tongues—

12) What is the answer to each of the questions in 12:29-30?

13) What is implied about these gifts (12:31)? What is even greater than all of them (12:31b; 13:1-13)?