

# 1 Corinthians 33 – 12:13-31

## The Body of Christ

### 1. 12:12-14 – Identified as the Body of Christ

- a. “in Christ” is a Pauline phrase, though God’s will is all would be - Eph 1:10
- b. Prophets, Peter, John spoke of being “in him” – 1 John 3:24; John 15:4, 17:21
- c. But, the “one body” is a Pauline doctrine – Eph 1:22-23, 2:14-16, 3:6, 4:4, 4:12, 5:30
- d. The “body of Christ” is a new creature (not Israel) - Eph 2:15, Gal 6:15, 2 Cor 5:17
- e. The one Body church is neither Jew nor Gentile – Col 3:11, Gal 3:27, 1 Cor 12:13
- f. Ex: three churches with different instructions – 1 Cor 10:1, Acts 7:38, 2:47
- g. We are made members of the body by Spirit baptism into Christ – Eph 1:13, 22

### 2. 12:13 – A Point of Contention

- a. There is a Spirit baptism in Matthew 3:11 which occurs at Pentecost
- b. Many think this is the same baptism as Pentecost, but at Pentecost:
  - i. The baptism and Holy Ghost were offered to Israel – Acts 2:14, 3:24-25
  - ii. The Spirit was given to identify them as recipients of a covenant Eze 36:27
  - iii. They had “all things in common” as a result – Acts 2:44-46 (Corinthians?)
  - iv. They were ignorant of the mystery truth of Romans 6:3-4, Gal 3:27
- c. The church, the body of Christ was not just unknown, it is also new (different)
- d. The same Spirit, but different ministry regarding Jesus – John 15:26, 1 Cor 2:7-10
- e. When the “one body” began is important to identify the foundation 1 Cor 3:10-11

### 3. 12:14-20 – Many Members, but One Body

- a. One member would be like a nation all of priests – Exo 19:6, Isa 61:6, 1 Pet 2:9
- b. The Body has many members that are each different (see 12:8-10), but that’s ok.
- c. Just because they are not the seers or the handlers doesn’t mean they are less
- d. 12:17 – Each has their own contribution/ service/ ministry to the body – Eph 4:16
- e. We each are unique, none of us are perfect, and we all have union with Christ.
- f. God sets them in the body to his pleasure - Eph 1:5, 9, 2:10; Phil 2:13; 1 Thes 4:1
- g. May we ask, “If we are all Israel, then where is the body?” = They are different.

### 4. 12:21-26 – Every Member Necessary

- a. The more comely parts cannot neglect the others – what makes them comely?
  - i. Speech 1 Cor 2:1; Knowledge - 8:1, 7; Wealth - 11:22; Gifts - 12:7
- b. Feeble → could be weak, or could be only an appearance of weakness (stomach)
- c. Loudness isn’t leadership, boasting isn’t authority, status isn’t spirituality
- d. Purpose of the many members: so there is no schism – Rom 12:3, and Pro 13:10

### 5. 12:27-31 – God Sets Some in Positions

- a. There was an order to the positions in the church; first: apostles – Rom 11:13
- b. There are better gifts, find out what excels, and pursue it - Phil 1:10