

The human body has many parts, but the many parts make up one whole body. So it is with the body of Christ. Some of us are Jews, some are Gentiles, some are slaves and some are free. But we have all been baptised into one body by one Spirit, and we all share the same Spirit.

1 Corinthians 12:12-13

In 1 Corinthians 12, he uses the extended metaphor of the human body to illustrate that every gift from every member is important to "the big picture" of what Christ wants to do with His body. Introduction

I. SPIRITUAL GIFTS: UNITY IN DIVERSITY (1-11)

A. PROPER KNOWLEDGE CONCERNING SPIRITUAL GIFTS (1-3)

1. Paul does not want them to be ignorant concerning spiritual gifts (1)
2. For as Gentiles they had been misled by dumb idols (2)
3. Two general principles to bear in mind:
 - a. No one speaking by the Spirit of God will call Jesus accursed (3a)
 - b. No one can say that Jesus is Lord except by the Holy Spirit (3b)

B. THOUGH DIVERSE, THERE IS UNITY OF ORIGIN AND PURPOSE IN SPIRITUAL GIFTS (4-11)

1. They all come from the same Spirit (4)
 - a. Just as there are different ministries, but the same Lord (5)
 - b. Just as diverse activities proceed from the same God (6)
2. Each "manifestation" (spiritual gift), though given to one, is to benefit all (7)
3. A summary of the different spiritual gifts (8-10)
 - a. The word of wisdom
 - b. The word of knowledge
 - c. Faith
 - d. Gifts of healing