

Blessed Hope Bible-Presbyterian Church
Adult Sunday School
26 November 2023
1 Corinthians 12:12-15

12 For as the body is one, and hath many members, and all the members of that one body, being many, are one body: so also *is* Christ. **13** For by one Spirit are we all baptized into one body, whether *we be* Jews or Gentiles, whether *we be* bond or free; and have been all made to drink into one Spirit. **14** For the body is not one member, but many. **15** If the foot shall say, Because I am not the hand, I am not of the body; is it therefore not of the body?

The Body Is One

(1) The Body Is One

12 For as the body is one, and hath many members, and all the members of that one body, being many, are one body: so also *is* Christ.

Woolvard summarized well, “This verse forms an excellent three-part summary of the rest of the chapter. (a) The human body is a unit (cf. v. 13 on the unity of the body of Christ). (b) The human body has many parts, with a necessary diversity in its members (cf. vv. 14-20). (c) The parts of the human body work together as one, with a dependent mutuality as each part fulfils an important function (cf. vv. 21-26). Likewise, the body of Christ has a diversity of parts functioning together (vv. 27-30).”

William MacDonald said rightly, “The human body is an illustration of unity and diversity. The body is one, yet has many members. Although all the believers are different and perform different functions, yet they all combine to make one functioning unit —the body. So also is Christ is more precisely translated: “So also is the Christ.” “The Christ” here refers not only to the glorified Lord Jesus Christ in heaven but to the Head in heaven and to His members here on earth. All believers are members of the Body of Christ. Just as the human body is a vehicle by which a person expresses himself to others, so the Body of Christ is the vehicle on earth by which He chooses to make Himself known to the world. It is an evidence of wonderful grace that the Lord would ever allow the expression “the Christ” to be used to include those of us who are members of His body.” May Christ’s body, the church, shine forth for His glory.

(2) By One Spirit Are We Baptized into One Body

13 For by one Spirit are we all baptized into one body, whether *we be* Jews or Gentiles, whether *we be* bond or free; and have been all made to drink into one Spirit.

The Holy Spirit indwells all believers in Jesus Christ. The action of the Holy Spirit coming to indwell a person thus baptising such a one into the body of Christ, the family of God. This Holy Spirit marks out every child of God and incorporates him or her into the family of God, which is described here as one body. It speaks of unity and it speaks also of diversity. Many members yet one body in Christ. The societal distinction of race and social status by no means prevents any from entering God’s kingdom. All are within the reach of God’s love.

God saved the Jews during the times of Christ. He also saved the Gentiles. After Christ’s ascension, the Holy Spirit that filled the disciples enabled them to preach the gospel. The Holy Spirit also opened the hearts of all who will believe to come to repentance and the saving knowledge of the Lord Jesus Christ. The Ethiopian eunuch was gloriously saved when Philip opened the Scripture in Isaiah 53 to him. He was from the continent of Africa. The Lord also saved the family of Cornelius,

the first European man. We saw the gospel reaching out today to the uttermost parts of the earth. And it is that same Holy Spirit that saved one and all.

William MacDonald observed well the second part of the verse, "The verse goes on to say that believers have all been made to drink into one Spirit. This means that they partake of the Spirit of God in the sense that they receive Him as an indwelling Person and receive the benefits of His ministry in their lives."

The Holy Spirit imparts to us the wisdom of God's truth so that we may order our lives receiving God's blessing.

(3) Not One Member But Many

14 For the body is not one member, but many.

William MacDonald observed well, "Without a variety of members you could not have a human body. There must be many members, each one different from the others, working in obedience to the head and in cooperation with the others." The diversity of function ultimately engages the body to proper functioning. Each is vital to the well-being of the entire body.

When one part of the body is weak, it affects the entire function of the body. Without the eyes, the body loses a vital organ of sight. With the ears, the body loses the function of hearing the audible input from the world around him.

The body in full function has all the parts coordinating together to fulfil the purpose of God bringing honour and glory to our Creator God. Thank God for gathering His church through the souls added to His kingdom. May it prosper from strength to strength labouring to usher the coming kingdom.

(4) Is It Therefore Not of the Body?

15 If the foot shall say, Because I am not the hand, I am not of the body; is it therefore not of the body?

Why should the foot feel itself a lesser member of the body just because the foot is not the hand? Worse, are the feet itself not a part of the body? Each has its own unique function in the body. What the foot can do, to enable the body to experience movement, the other functions of the body cannot do. It is important that the body has different members performing differing functions, each contributing to the well-being of the whole. None should feel belittled because it is unable to perform the function of another part of the body.

God sovereign makes us what we are, beautiful in His sight, to give glory to His Name by performing the function He makes us do! **Isaiah 64:8** *But now, O LORD, thou art our father; we are the clay, and thou our potter; and we all are the work of thy hand.*

Thank God for His sovereign wisdom guiding us to fulfil His will.