**One Body, One Spirit**

*1 Corinthians 12, 13, 14*

**Introduction**

* Context is important: We can go to 1 Corinthians 12, 13 to establish the point that miraculous gifts no longer exist today. *“When that which is perfect has come, then that which is in part will be done away”* (1 Corinthians 13:10). This is correct. However, what is the context, and what is the problem Paul is addressing?
* 11:18 *“there are divisions among you.”* Paul is dealing with the problem of division. Divisions were among the Corinthian brethren with regard to gifts of the Spirit. Paul addresses that problem in chapter 12.
* The context teaches an important lesson that is necessary for the success of the church and pleasing God.

1. Different gifts, same Spirit.
2. How were these gifts given? (v. 4-11)

* Some would read verse 13 and say HS baptism. Is this baptism (cf. v. 13) Holy Spirit baptism? – Some would say the HS baptism is considered here. They would say this is where the gifts came from and this is the one baptism which confirms salvation.
  + Were all baptized with the HS?
    - No. – Two occasions of HS baptism in scripture. (cf. Acts 2:1-4; 10:44-48)
      * HS baptism confirmed the gospel being taken to the Jews (2:1-4), and the Gentiles (10:34-35, 44-48).
      * Tongues accompanied HS baptism. Not all spoke in tongues at Corinth (cf. v. 30). Paul can’t possibly be talking about HS baptism!
* Miraculous gifts came from the laying on of the apostles hands (cf. Acts 8:17-19 – Simon the sorcerer asks for HS; 19:6 – Paul with disciples at Ephesus).

1. What is the baptism all participated in?

* HS baptism in Acts 2 and 10 came first. Then came water baptism for the remission of sins. Water baptism saves.
* (v. 12-14) – Baptism!
  + This is the “one baptism” that EVERYONE partakes in (cf. Ephesians 4:5).
  + John 3:5 – *“Unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God.”*
  + This is the baptism that saves (cf. 1 Peter 3:18-21 – *“were saved through water”)*
  + This is the baptism which unifies us in Christ (cf. Galatians 3:26-29 – *“all one in Christ Jesus”)*

1. The Body of Christ is unified in the Spirit.

* Because you all drank of the same Spirit (obeyed the same Spirit that required the same obedience) there should be no division! All ONE in Christ! (v. 4-6, 11)
  + Different gender, race, culture, and financial status but that isn’t considered in Christ.
  + *We all drank of the same teachings, by the same Spirit, and were all obedient to the same God, who offers us the same salvation through the same savior.*

1. If we are unified we are to act like it. (v. 15-30)

* Every member of the body serves a purpose. If you say you are insignificant or not of the body you are wrong (v. 15-19). If you say you have no need of an individual simply because they don’t do what you do, you are wrong (v. 21).
  + (v. 22-26) Even the parts that seem *“weaker”* or *“less honorable”* are important and needed. The body does not work properly without all parts.
* If you have an ability then use it. There is a need for workers in God’s kingdom and they are all significant – Romans 12:3-8 (be content with your gift – however not an excuse to not grow. These brethren were seeking to excel! They wanted spiritual gifts, just for the wrong reason. Seek to excel for the good of the church!)
  + Don’t think of yourself as better than another. – Philippians 2:3
* Every join supplies (contributes)! – Ephesians 4:16
  + This is how the body should look and work!
  + *“Edifying of itself in love”* 🡪

1. These gifts are of no value without love. (ch. 13)

* Our works are vain without love. (13:1-3)
* *“Love edifies!”* – 1 Corinthians 8:1

1. The gifts are for edification of the saints.

* (14:1-5) These gifts are for edification.
* What does edification come from? – Doctrine! Understanding of the scriptures!
  + (14:12-19) – without understanding there is no edification.
  + *“Let all things be done for edification”* (14:26).
  + *“For God is not the author of confusion but of peace, as in all the churches of the saints” (14:33).*

**Conclusion**

* The one body of Christ has many members. These members work together to help each other be better servants of God. We help each other reach our goal of heaven.
* This is done by acting like the unified body that we are. We all have a purpose. Everyone is important. We all have the responsibility to edify one another.
* We only edify ourselves through the understanding of scripture. We receive instruction for Christian living, and we receive edification through doctrine. This cannot happen when there is *“schism in the body.”*
* Have you drank into that one Spirit? Have you been baptized into the body? If not, why not?