**Sermon Title: Guidelines for Unity and Diversity of Gifts, Part 1**

**Sermon Text: 1 Corinthians 12:12-19**

**Sermon Purpose: To call the hearer to an understanding of the unity and diversity picture of Spiritual gifts.**

**Sermon Proposition: There are 4 principles for unity and diversity of gifts that builds up the church.**

**Introduction:** “The church is not so much an organization as it is an organism. It is made up of living parts. It is called the body of Christ. Just as a human body is organized to function in unity by the co-working and codependence of many parts, so the church as a body displays unity and diversity.

 Though ruled by One “head” – Christ – the body has many members each equipped and gifted and endowed by God to contribute to the work of the whole body.”

[**The Reformation Study Bible, p.2094**]

**I. The Principle of the one body. V.12**

**II. The Principle of the one Spirit. V.13**

**III. The Principle of the one equal value. Vv.14-17**

**IV. The Principle of the one Arranger. Vv.18-19**

**I. The Principle of the one body. V.12**

 Paul uses the analogy of the human body for the unity of the church in Christ.

 **1 Corinthians 10:17** For we, *though* many, are one bread *and* one body; for we all partake of that one bread.

From here (**1 Corinthians 10:17**) to verse 27 Paul uses the term body “18 times.”

 (**Ephesians 4:4, 12, 16**)

 **Romans 12:5** so we, *being* many, are one body in Christ, and individually members of one another.

 **Ephesians 1:23** which is His body, the fullness of Him who fills all in all.

 **Ephesians 2:16** and that He might reconcile them both to God in one body through the cross, thereby putting to death the enmity.

 **Colossians 1:18** And He is the head of the body, the church, who is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, that in all things He may have the preeminence.

 MacArthur states, “Spiritual gifts are identified with Jesus Christ because, in the fullest sense, they were complete and perfectly operative in His preaching, teaching, and ministry to others. The reason God gives each believer differing gifts is that He wants the Body to manifest a composite Christlikeness.”

 **[“*The Body Dynamic: Finding Where You Fit in Today’s Church*,” John MacArthur, Jr. p.101]**

“The gifts are not random; they are Christ’s characteristics reproduced (and multiplied) by the Spirit in the Body. That means the only way an individual Christian will ever be a person of full stature (completeness) in Christ is when all the gifts are ministered to him or her.” [**Ibid. 101**]

 This is God’s plan for the effectual functioning of the church. AS each individual member serves the others, all are being built up, edified, equipped, and conformed as individuals to be like Christ, and they collectively put on display the total person of Christ.

**II. The Principle of the one Spirit. V.13**

 (**John 3:5-8; Romans 6:3-5**)

 **Romans 8:9** But you are not in the flesh but in the Spirit, if indeed the Spirit of God dwells in you. Now if anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, he is not His.

 **2 Corinthians 5:5** Now He who has prepared us for this very thing *is* God, who also has given us the Spirit as a guarantee.

 A. The Holy Spirit baptizes believers into one **body**. V.13a

 1. We are immersed into the **death** of Christ.

 2. We are immersed into the **resurrection** of Christ.

 3. We are immersed into the **purpose** of Christ.

 Paul’s point is to emphasize the unity of those who make up the church. There cannot be any true believer who has not been Spirit-baptized at salvation, nor are there multiple Spirit baptisms into the Body of Christ.

 **Ephesians 4:4-6** *There is* one body and one Spirit, just as you were called in one hope of your calling; **5** one Lord, one faith, one baptism; **6** one God and Father of all, who *is* above all, and through all, and in you all.

 **Acts 10:44-45** While Peter was still speaking these words, the Holy Spirit fell upon all those who heard the word. **45** And those of the circumcision who believed were astonished, as many as came with Peter, because the gift of the Holy Spirit had been poured out on the Gentiles also.

 **Acts 11:15-17** "And as I began to speak, the Holy Spirit fell upon them, as upon us at the beginning. **16** "Then I remembered the word of the Lord, how He said,`John indeed baptized with water, but you shall be baptized with the Holy Spirit.' **17** "If therefore God gave them the same gift as *He gave* us when we believed on the Lord Jesus Christ, who was I that I could withstand God?"

 B. The Holy Spirit unites believers into one **man**. V.13b

 Paul’s special revelation concerning the “mystery” which was hidden in times past, namely that the church, made up of both Jews and Gentiles, are now constituted as one body, one “new man” on equal terms by virtue of Christ’s death, burial, resurrection, and exaltation.

 (**Ephesians 1:22-23; 2:11-16; 3:2-6**)

 **Galatians 3:28** There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, there is neither male nor female; for you are all one in Christ Jesus.

 **Romans 10:12-13** For there is no distinction between Jew and Greek, for the same Lord over all is rich to all who call upon Him. **13** For "whoever calls on the name of the LORD shall be saved."

 C. The Holy Spirit indwells believers into one identity. V.13c

 At salvation all believers not only become full members of Christ’s body, the church, but the Holy Spirit is placed within each of them.

 **Romans 8:9** But you are not in the flesh but in the Spirit, if indeed the Spirit of God dwells in you. Now if anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, he is not His.

 **Romans 6:19** I speak in human *terms* because of the weakness of your flesh. For just as you presented your members *as* slaves of uncleanness, and of lawlessness *leading* to *more* lawlessness, so now present your members *as* slaves *of* righteousness for holiness.

 **Colossians 2:10** and you are complete in Him, who is the head of all principality and power.

 **2 Peter 1:3-4** as His divine power has given to us all things that *pertain* to life and godliness, through the knowledge of Him who called us by glory and virtue, **4** by which have been given to us exceedingly great and precious promises, that through these you may be partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption *that is* in the world through lust.

 **John 4:13-14** Jesus answered and said to her, "Whoever drinks of this water will thirst again, **14** "but whoever drinks of the water that I shall give him will never thirst. But the water that I shall give him will become in him a fountain of water springing up into everlasting life."

 **John 15:1-4** "I am the true vine, and My Father is the vinedresser. **2** "Every branch in Me that does not bear fruit He takes away; and every *branch* that bears fruit He prunes, that it may bear more fruit. **3** "You are already clean because of the word which I have spoken to you. **4** "Abide in Me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you abide in Me.

 **John 14:16-17** "And I will pray the Father, and He will give you another Helper, that He may abide with you forever-- **17** "the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees Him nor knows Him; but you know Him, for He dwells with you and will be in you.

**Conclusion:**

The church’s witness

**John 17:20-21** "I do not pray for these alone, but also for those who will believe in Me through their word; **21** "that they all may be one, as You, Father, *are* in Me, and I in You; that they also may be one in Us, that the world may believe that You sent Me.

is not only verbal or merely a communication of the Gospel in specific, but it is also the witness of humility, love, unity, and harmony!