**Sermon Title: Guidelines for Unity and Diversity of Gifts, Part 2**

**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’s witness is to be reflected not only by our verbal declaration of the Gospel, but also in the visible display of our humility, love, unity, and harmony, just like a human body.

When the Spirit of God rules and energizes a church at least 8 evidences will be manifested.

1. The Spirit-controlled church is **unified**.

 It is a unity that does not crush individuality.

2. The Spirit-controlled church is characterized by **fellowship**.

 Inclusive of every believer who cares and participates.

3. The Spirit-controlled church is **worshipful**.

 God centered, shared by all, honors God the Father, the Son, and Holy Spirit.

4. The Spirit-controlled church is **evangelistic**.

 The church that is responsive to the Spirit wins souls spontaneously and joyfully.

5. The Spirit-controlled church is **loving**.

 Selflessness and sacrifice are normal.

6. The Spirit-controlled church is **obedient**.

 It walks in the path and model that Jesus Christ prescribes, and only that path and model.

7. The Spirit-controlled church is **submissive**.

 This is reflected in voluntary, willful, joyful obedience. (Seeks to be well pleasing to the Lord!)

8. The Spirit-controlled church **serves**.

 They come to serve and not be served.

**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**

Paul demonstrates that unity is an indispensable need for the effectiveness of the church and is divinely inspired.

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

 A. Understand the fact of one body, but many members. V.14

 God has graciously distributed to Christians who make up the church different gifts, and the measure of faith to go with each gift. Therefore, He provides faith that is sufficient to exercise the various spiritual gifts. Anyone who doesn’t function hinders the effectual growth and completeness of the whole body.

 B. Understand the fact of undeniable **attachment**. Vv.15-16

 The Body of Christ must also reflect harmony in the ministering of the gifts. There can only be true supernatural unity and harmony if:

 1. Christians **humble** themselves.

 2. Christians **serve** and **work** for the interest of others.

 3. Christians love with **selfless** love.

 4. Christians minister their gifts in **harmony**.

 **Philippians 2:2-4** fulfill my joy by being like-minded, having the same love, *being* of one accord, of one mind. **3** *Let* nothing *be done* through selfish ambition or conceit, but in lowliness of mind let each esteem others better than himself. **4** Let each of you look out not only for his own interests, but also for the interests of others.

 C. Understand the fact of separate **function**. V.17

 “If you believe that your position is the most important one on the field, and if you play it that way on every play, we can’t be beaten.” Unity and diversity is vitally important to the effective functioning of the church. [**Ibid. p. 95**]

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

 A. The Arranger of the body of Christ’s **unity** is God. V.18

 1. each one of them. V.18b

 2. according to His desire. V.18c

 B. The Arranger of the body of Christ’s **diversity** is God. V.19

 **Romans 12:6-8** Having then gifts differing according to the grace that is given to us, *let us use them*: if prophecy, *let us prophesy* in proportion to our faith; **7** or ministry, *let us use it* in *our* ministering; he who teaches, in teaching; **8** he who exhorts, in exhortation; he who gives, with liberality; he who leads, with diligence; he who shows mercy, with cheerfulness.

 **1 Corinthians 12:4-7** There are diversities of gifts, but the same Spirit. **5** There are differences of ministries, but the same Lord. **6** And there are diversities of activities, but it is the same God who works all in all. **7** But the manifestation of the Spirit is given to each one for the profit *of all*:

**Conclusion:** If gifted leaders equip the saints, the gifted saints do the work of the ministry of service according to the Scriptures, the Body grows in unity, love, and harmony. If sometimes there is a break down, it is probably because either the pastor doesn’t effectively and efficiently teach the Word to equip the members or the members are not accepting their responsibility of service in obedience to the Head of the Church, Jesus Christ!

**That is the church we must be, and the church we must be becoming!**