

Understanding Unity in the Body

1 Corinthians 12:4-13

Outline of 1 Corinthians:

- I. **Introduction (1:1-9)**
- II. **Problems Reported (1:10-6:20)**
- III. **Questions Raised (7:1-16:4)**
 - e. Spiritual Expression (12:1-14:40)

Spiritual Expression = *how the Holy Spirit's work is expressed in the church*

A. One Source (12:4-7)

v4-6 – the Triune God is behind the spiritual work of the Church

v7 – the work of the Holy Spirit is seen in all believers

B. Various Gifts (12:8-11)

v8-10 - a partial list of gifts active in Corinth in 55 AD

- Word of Wisdom – Revelation gift; God directing the church
- Word of Knowledge – Revelation gift; God teaching the church
- Faith – Sign gift; an ability to trust (special supernatural ability)
- Gifts of healings – Sign gifts; heal physical maladies
- Working of miracles – Sign gifts; supernatural actions
- Prophecy – Revelation gift; including predictions, exhortations, and application of truth
- Discerning of spirits – Revelation gift; discerning the source of a supposed revelation
- Kinds of tongues – Sign gift; speaking truth in languages never learned
- Interpretation of tongues – Sign gift; translate the message of the one speaking in tongues

v11 – don't miss this: the same Holy Spirit is working in all the gifts

C. One Body (12:12-13)

v12 – “as the [human] body... so also is Christ”

v13 – a common connection shared by all believers

Four questions about the Holy Spirit to understand the unity of the body:

- 1) Who is the Holy Spirit?

- 2) Do all believers have the Holy Spirit?

- 3) What does the Holy Spirit have to do with unity?

- 4) What is the baptism of the Holy Spirit?

It is the act of Jesus Christ which places the believer into the body of Christ by giving the gift of the Holy Spirit at the moment of faith.

- Jesus is the one who baptizes by the Holy Spirit, identifying believers as belonging to Him.
- The believer receives the Holy Spirit when he or she believes in Jesus Christ.
- The Holy Spirit's indwelling marks the believer as a member of the body of Christ.