

# Embracing Diversity in the Body

1 Corinthians 12:14-31

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. An Introduction of Fact: We Are the Body of Christ (12:12-14)

Question: 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.

Question: What is the church?

## B. Refuting Lie #1 – Some Are Less Important (12:15-19)

- Lie #1A: 'I believe that I am less important than other members.'
- Lie #1B: 'I believe that one particular member is less important than others.'

**v15-16** – Just because a lie is stated does not make it true.

**v17** – Diversity is part of design.

**v18-19** – The body is designed by God, and His choices are wise choices.

### **C. Refuting Lie #2 – Some Are More Important (12:20-26)**

- Lie #2A: 'I believe that I am more important than other members.'
- Lie #2B: 'I believe that one particular member is more important than others.'

**v20-21** – Interdependence among members is part of the design for the body.

**v22-24** – Though some members appear to be more important, the designer disagrees.

**v25-26** – Two reasons for God's design of interdependence give us a practical vision.

### **D. A Summary to Encourage Believers (12:27-31)**

**v27-30** – The facts are repeated and brought close to home:

→ you are the body of Christ.

→ not all members in the body of Christ are the same.

**v31** – One thing is needed above all else in the body of Christ.