

**“Understanding the Interdependence of the Gifted Church” 11/01/09**

**1 Corinthians 12:12-31**

**Sermon Series- “Understanding the Nature and Function of the Church”**

**Background of Series- Why the church matters, Oneness of the body, gifts of the body.**

*“to Him be glory in the church by Christ Jesus to all generations, forever and ever. Amen.” Ephesians 3:21*

**WE ARE ALL UNIQUE- talents, character, appearance, abilities, etc.- Twins  
WHAT IS YOUR PURPOSE?**

*“Let your light shine before others” (Matt 5:16-plural ‘you’; 2 Cor 13:5)*

*“You are the temple of the Holy Spirit” (1 Cor 3:16; 6:19-plural ‘you’)*

**POINT 1-** The interdependence of the church is seen in its UNITY

**Vv.12-13**

- A. The unity of the body is illustrated with a METAPHOR  
(1 Corinthians 12:12; Romans 12:5; Ephesians 1:23; 4:4, 16; 5:23)
- B. The unity of the body is rooted in our baptism in the SPIRIT  
(1 Corinthians 12:13; Matthew 3:11; Acts 1:5; Romans 8:9)

*Going God expects us to rejoice at our guaranteed position in the body!  
Deeper You have a place and purpose!*

**POINT 2-** The interdependence of the church is seen in its DIVERSITY

**Vv. 14-19**

- A. The diversity of the body is challenged by attitude of some MEMBERS  
(Romans 12:3, 10; “give preference to another”; Philippians 2:3-10)

**QUOTE about SOMEONE ELSE**

- B. The diversity of the body is founded upon God’s AUTHORITY  
(To reject it is to reject God- either by pride or disengagement)

*Going God expects us to submit to His wisdom and find our place in the body!  
Deeper*

**POINT 3-** The interdependence of the church is seen in its MUTUALITY

**Vv. 20-31 STRIKE OF THE HANDS- FEET AGAINST STOMACH... Body doesn’t exist for hand!**

- A. The mutuality (harmony) of the body depends on HUMILITY
- B. The harmony of the body should be rooted in all of our ACTIONS  
(12:25-26; Phil 2:2-4; Rom 12:3, 15-16; 1 Peter 3:8; 4:8; 1 Cor 6:7)

**MY NEEDS AREN’T GETTING MET; NO ONE CALLED....**

- C. The harmony of the body is shown in the diversity of DISTRIBUTION  
(1 Corinthians 12:4-11; 29-30; 12:11, 18 “as He pleases”)

*Going God expects us to embrace the fact that we need each other!  
Deeper*

I know that all of you were saddened to learn this week of the death of one of our church's most valuable members -- Someone Else. Someone Else's passing created a vacancy that will be difficult to fill. They have been with us for many years, and for every one of those years, Someone Else did far more than the normal person's share of the work. Whenever leadership was mentioned, this wonderful person was looked to for inspiration as well as results. Someone Else can work with that group. Whenever there was a job to do, a class to teach, or a meeting to attend, one name was on everyone's lips, "Let Someone Else do it". It was common knowledge that Someone Else was among the largest givers in the church. Whenever there was a financial need, everyone just assumed that Someone Else would make up the difference. Someone Else was a wonderful person, sometimes appearing super-human, but a person can only do so much. Were the truth known, everyone expected too much of Someone Else. Now Someone Else is gone. We wonder what we are going to do. Someone Else left a wonderful example to follow, but who is going to follow it? Who is going to do the things Someone Else did? Remember, we can't depend on Someone Else anymore.

**"1 Corinthians 12:22** In fact, some parts of the body that seem weakest and least important are actually the most necessary. <sup>23</sup> And the parts we regard as less honorable are those we clothe with the greatest care. So we carefully protect those parts that should not be seen, <sup>24</sup> while the more honorable parts do not require this special care. So God has put the body together such that extra honor and care are given to those parts that have less dignity. <sup>25</sup> This makes for harmony among the members, so that all the members care for each other. <sup>26</sup> If one part suffers, all the parts suffer with it, and if one part is honored, all the parts are glad."