

Being One, Part:6
Unbreaking the Body
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INTRODUCTION

- Our concept of 'membership' comes from this analogy of Paul.
- In this whole section (1 Cor 12-14), Paul argues strongly for 'unity in diversity', not 'unity without diversity' (uniformity) or 'diversity without unity' (division), like the unified sound of a diverse orchestra!
- Paul has both the universal body ('we' in 12.13) and local body ('you' in 12.27) in mind.

1 CORINTHIANS 12.12-27 (ESV)

¹²For just as [a] body is one and has many members, and all the members of [a] body, though many, are one body, so it is with Christ. ¹³For in one Spirit we were all baptized into one body--Jews or Greeks, slaves or free--and all were made to drink of one Spirit.

¹⁴For the body does not consist of one member but of many. ¹⁵If the foot should say, "Because I am not a hand, I do not belong to the body," that would not make it any less a part of the body. ¹⁶And if the ear should say, "Because I am not an eye, I do not belong to the body," that would not make it any less a part of the body.

1 CORINTHIANS 12.12-27 (ESV)

¹⁷If the whole body were an eye, where would be the sense of hearing? If the whole body were an ear, where would be the sense of smell? ¹⁸But as it is, God arranged the members in the body, each one of them, as he chose. ¹⁹If all were a single member, where would the body be? ²⁰As it is, there are many parts, yet one body. ²¹The eye cannot say to the hand, "I have no need of you," nor again the head to the feet, "I have no need of you."

1 CORINTHIANS 12.12-27 (ESV)

²²On the contrary, the parts of the body that seem to be weaker are indispensable, ²³and on those parts of the body that we think less honorable we bestow the greater honor, and our unpresentable parts are treated with greater modesty, ²⁴which our more presentable parts do not require. But God has so composed the body, giving greater honor to the part that lacked it, ²⁵that there may be no division in the body, but that the members may have the same care for one another. ²⁶If one member suffers, all suffer together; if one member is honored, all rejoice together. ²⁷Now you are the body of Christ and individually members of it.

OUTLINE

- The problem of inferiority (12.14-20)
- The problem of superiority (12.21-26)
- This solution of the body (12.27)

CONCLUSION

- Both the self-pity of inferiority and the arrogance of superiority are symptoms of selfish pride.
- This can continue to be a problem even when we are one with Christ in the Spirit.
- The solution is to submit to Christ's kingship and follow His example by His grace.
