

## ONE BODY WITH MANY PARTS

1 Corinthians 12:12,26 “For just as the body is one and has many parts, but all the parts of the body, although being many, are one body, so also is Christ. . .if one part suffers, all the parts suffer together; if one part is honored, all the parts rejoice together.”

How does God intend for believers to live their lives? Faith is individual. By the faith the Holy Spirit has given you in Jesus, you personally are saved. At the same time, you are not the only one who has received this gift from God. 1 Corinthians 12:12-26 discusses how through the faith you have received from God, He makes you unique. God’s gift of faith makes each individual recipient His son or daughter. Although faith is given individually, everyone having this gift of faith together makes up “one body,” the body of Christ. Another name for The Body of Christ is the Holy Christian Church.

Today’s verses from 1 Corinthians 12, emphasize the uniqueness of each individual Christian while at the same time make the point that no one individual is more or less important in the Church. All of our unique gifts from God form the “body of Christ,” His Church, to function as God wants. Paul writes, “the eye cannot say to the hand, ‘I have no need of you,’ nor again the head to the feet.” (verse 21)

God’s concern is that no one person considers themselves better, greater, of more or lesser importance within the Church. Galatians 6:2-3 “Bear one another’s burdens, and so fulfill the law of Christ. For if anyone thinks he is something, when he is nothing, he deceives himself.” To each believer God has given a gift or gifts that the entire Church needs in order to be healthy and strong. The various gifts are united in the Body of Christ to assist each individual person within the body of Christ in their own faith journey. Verse 25 says, “that the parts should show the same care for one another.”

The concluding verse is especially important when it says, “. . .if one part suffers, all the parts suffer together; if one part is honored, all the parts rejoice together.” Picturing this in real time, knowing the real things that happen to each of us, God brings Christians into group settings (churches, fellowships, etc.) with the purpose of combining His gifts and blessings for the good of the whole. “For we were all

baptized with one Spirit into one body. . .we all were given to drink one Spirit.”  
(verse 13)

Prayer: O Lord, help me to know the special gift or gifts you have given me and how you want me to use them for my own good, the needs of my brothers and sisters in Christ and for all people. In Jesus’ name. Amen.

Come, Holy Ghost, God and Lord, With Your graces now outpoured  
On each believer’s mind and heart, Your fervent love to them impart.  
Lord, by the brightness of Your light In holy faith Your Church unite;  
From ev’ry land and ev’ry tongue This to Your praise, O Lord, our God, be  
sung: Alleluia, alleluia!

Come, holy Light, guide divine, Now cause the Word of life to shine.  
Teach us to know our God aright And call Him Father with delight.  
From ev’ry error keep us free; Let none but Christ our master be  
That we in living faith abide, In Him, our Lord, with all our might confide.  
Alleluia, alleluia!

Come, holy Fire, comfort true, Grant us the will Your work to do  
And in Your service to abide; Let trials turn us not aside.  
Lord, by Your pow’r prepare each heart,  
And to our weakness strength impart  
That bravely here we may contend, Through life and death to You, our  
Lord, ascend. Alleluia, alleluia!  
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