“Being Members of the Body of Christ”

**1 Corinthinians 12:14-27** Sunday August 20, 2023 Pastor Timothy Atkins

## INTRODUCTION READ 1 Corinthians 12:1-31

We as a church body learn and grow how we might minister to one another as a church family using the spiritual gifts bestowed upon this body of believers. This is Christian ministry through every gifted individual as members of the body of Christ. Therefore the presence and the work of the Spirit of God through every member.

Many Images used in the New Testament to describe the church: Flock of God, People of God, Temple of God, the Bride of Christ, Vine and Branches, stones and building, Shepherd and His Sheep, The Body of Christ With Christ Jesus as the Head

 READ 12:7, 11, 12, 18, 24, 27

Christian Ministry Is The Variety of Gifts and Diversity of Individuals in the Church Body Manifesting the Spirit of God for the Common Good 12:4-11

* Lack of understanding the use of spiritual gifts in church ministry will hinder the working of the Spirit in and through the church of God—**I Corinthians 12:1-11**

verses 4-6 “the same Spirit . . . the same Lord . . . the same God”

 verses 4-6 “there are differences/varieties of gifts . . . ministries . . . effects”

 “but the same God working all things in all”

“but *each one* given the manifestation of the Spirit **to** the common good”

* every believer has a gift and every bestowal of a gift for the benefit of all
* Paul reminds us again these are given 1 Corinthians 4:6-7

verse 11 “all these things works the one and the same Spirit”

* that the Spirit of God is at work is the emphasis in the work of the church
* the design of God according to the desire of the Spirit READ I Peter 4:10-11

Christian Ministry Reveals The Unity of the Body and the Diversity of the Members as the Body of Christ 12:12-13 cf. 1 Corinthians 3:16-17; 6:19-20

* Lack of functioning according to desires of the Spirit in church ministry will cause the deviating from the design of God for His church **I Corinthians 12:12-13**

The Structure of the Body As One With Many Members

Illustration of human body, diversity in unity, one whole body with many members

14x in this chapter alone READ Romans 12:4-6

The Nature of the Body by One Spirit in One Body---The members give testimony of this act with the Spirit by their ministry towards other members of the body of Christ

 Cf. Matthew 3:11; John 1:33

Christian Ministry Teaches The Unity of the Body and the Activity of the Functions of Each Member of the Body of Christ 12:14-27

 Different members of the human body---purposes, abilities, functions, roles, designs

1. Misunderstanding the Importance of Your Place

 Being A Member of the Church Body vv. 15-20

1. Defective Attitude of Insignificance “I am not a part of the body”

“I am nothing and they are something” UNDERVALUING

unity involves mutual dependence and ministry together as the body

 personally using your gifts promotes unity of the body Ephesians 4:16

1. Unity of A Body With The Biblical Approach As A Body

Divinely arranged according to the desire and design of God

Four truths declared which we testify as a body cf. 12:28

 Illustration: orchestra different instruments, different parts

1. Misrepresenting the Significance of Your Place

 Being A Member of the Church Body vv. 21-27

1. Divisive Attitude of Independence “I have no need of you”

“I am somebody and they are nobody” OVERESTIMATING

individually using your gifts pictures diversity of the body

1. Ministry of The Body With The Biblical Action As A Body

Divinely composed according to the plan and purpose of God

to cause parts to fit together in an overall arrangement

‘to put together, to compose, to structure.’

More truths declared which we value as a body cf. 12:24-26

 Illustration: “A Carpenter’s Tools”

CONCLUSION Encouragement and Exhortation Being Members . . .

* Confronting any spectator mindset and every attender only mentality
* Each one gifted is necessary & needed for the Spirit has given to the body
* Unity of the Body and Ministry of the Body Being Our Christian Testimony
* Remember the grace you have been given with the presence of gifts here
* Learn the place each one of us has being a member of the Body of Christ