

## **I Corinthians 12:12-25**

### **Unity in Diversity**

#### **Introduction:**

When we think of the word “unity” we are thinking about the state of being one. It represents sameness; whereas the word “diversity” is the state of being different or variety. Unity in Diversity sounds like an oxymoron which is a contradiction or a moronic statement. But in Paul’s thinking, writing this epistle under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit there does truly remain a unity and diversity that co-exist. In fact in the creation of man there exists a harmonious nature of the human body with all its variety of parts. The spiritual nature of the church is compared to the body of Christ. “He is also head of the body, the church” Col. 1:18

#### **I. The Body and Spirit of the Church**

##### **A. The church is not a democracy**

1. Functions as a body – 12:7
2. Different members – v.12; 1:30 “in Christ” (about 300 times)

##### **B. The human body**

1. Baptism symbolized – v.13; Rom. 6:3; Gal. 3:27; Turn To: 1:13-17; Matt. 3:11
2. Drinking the Spirit – v.13b.
3. What does Paul mean by this? “to drink” Gk. potizo “to irrigate plants” Turn To: John 7:37-39; John 3:8

##### **C. Many members – v.4**

#### **II. Illustrating the Body of the Church – v. 15-25**

##### **A. Mutual Dependence – v.17**

1. The human body needs all five senses
2. God’s arrangement of the parts – v.18 ; Eph. 4:11-13

##### **B. Rhetorical Question v.19-20**

1. Weaker members felt insecure
2. The wrong attitude – v.21, 22
3. More abundant honor should be given to the weaker members –v.23
4. Indispensable members – key word, “bestow” means “to clothe,” or “to dress modestly”
5. Limelight gifts do not need to be adorned – v.24

#### **Conclusion:**

1. *What prevents division or schism in the body? Answer: When mutual care and respect is given to all the parts of the body. God expects all the parts to blend into one harmonious whole.*
2. *If you are not a Christian then you must come to Jesus who is the head of the church. Jesus died for the church. He gave himself up for her. Eph. 5:25 Come and believe in Him for your redemption awaits you.*