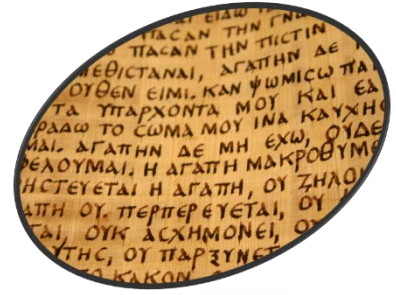


# 1 Corinthians – “Unity in Christ”

## Lesson #13



### I. Mute idols

a. Read 1 Corinthians 12:1-3

b. The word for “pagan” in verse 2 is the same word used in Matthew 28:19 for “nations”. What does this imply?

c. What is the problem or question the Corinthians are “uninformed” about?

d. Who gets the credit for all things spiritual? (vs 3)

### II. Variety... in ONE

a. Read 1 Corinthians 12:4-13

b. The word for “gifts” in verse 4 is rooted in the word grace. How does grace change the way we understand these gifts?

c. “The same... Spirit... Lord... God.” (vss 4-6) What word that is not found in Scripture comes from these verses?

d. The Spirit is tied to gifts of grace; Lord is tied to service; God is tied to works. (vss 4-6) How are these statements in the Apostles’ Creed?

e. For what purpose does God provide these gifts? (vs 7)

f. Some of the gifts listed in vss 8-10 do not seem to be as active in today’s Church. Why not?

g. How do vss 12-13 fit with the unity theme of 1 Corinthians?

i. See Galatians 3:27-28

### III. The body and its parts

a. Read 1 Corinthians 12:14-26

b. The human body is a metaphor regarding the Church. What other metaphors did Paul use earlier in this letter?

i. See 1 Corinthians 3:6, 10-11; 4:1

c. What is different about the words, independence and interdependence?

d. Is the human body capable of adapting to missing parts? At what cost?

e. How do outside forces (e.g., worldly views) make certain responsibilities within the Church more desirable than others?

f. Certain people in the Church are in foreground, while others are in the background. Who best determines these places?

g. What can inferiority create in a believer? Superiority?

h. In what ways do you see the truth of verse 26 in our congregation?

### IV. Gifts for a purpose

a. Read 1 Corinthians 12:27-31

b. Is verse 28 a ranking of gifts by importance?

- c. How do these gifts show themselves in the modern Church? (vs 28)
- d. How many questions does Paul ask in vss 29-30? What is the expected answer to each question?
- e. What is the gift of speaking in tongues? Do all have this gift?
- f. This chapter emphasizes the importance of all God's gifts. What does "higher gifts" mean in verse 31?

V. **Next time...**

- a. Read 1 Corinthians 13:1-13