

## 5-5-19 EVERYONE IS SOMEONE IN THE BODY OF CHRIST THE CELEBRATION OF CONFIRMATION – 1 Corinthians 12 & 13

Last week we started the series “EVERYONE IS SOMEONE IN THE BODY OF CHRIST” by celebrating the RE-AFFIRMATION OF ADULT BAPTISM & FAITH that led to Kristina Biggs joining SHUMC.

This week we continue the series “EVERYONE IS SOMEONE IN THE BODY OF CHRIST” by celebrating the CONFIRMATION of 12 of our young people who have been learning about the ESSENTIALS of CHRISTIAN FAITH & PRACTICE” since last fall.

As we consider “CONFIRMING THEIR FAITH” and “WELCOMING THEM INTO CHURCH MEMBERSHIP” it is important for all of us to have a good understanding of the church’s intention, composition and inter-working relationships between members.

1 Corinthians 12 & 13 are one of the best descriptions of the church’s need for everyone, its remarkable diversity of members, and yet its distinguishing unity when it is functioning as God intended. All the while **GUIDED & LED by Jesus Christ** and then **UNITED & EMPOWERED by the Holy Spirit**.

While I hope that you will read the entire chapter of 1 Corinthians 12 & 13 on your own this week several key highlights include:

1. **EVERY CHRISTIAN BELIEVER HAS BEEN ENDOWED BY GOD WITH AT LEAST ONE SPIRITUAL GIFT INTENDED FOR THE GOOD OF THE CHURCH BODY THAT A PERSON IS CALLED TO BE A PART.**
  - A. God gives EVERY church body ALL the SPIRITUAL GIFTS IT NEEDS to DO ALL THAT GOD INTENDS FOR THAT PARTICULAR CHURCH TO DO AND TO BE.
  - B. Our individual SPIRITUAL GIFTS may change from time to time, in part to meet the needs of the church body that an individual is called. i.e. A person may be particularly ‘gifted’ at one church, but if they attend another church (for whatever reason) their gift mix may change to better suit the new church.

**1 Corinthians 12:4-11:** <sup>4</sup> There are different kinds of **gifts**, but the same Spirit distributes them. <sup>5</sup> There are different kinds of **service**, but the same Lord. <sup>6</sup> There are different kinds of **working**, but in all of them and in everyone it is the same God at work.

<sup>7</sup> Now to each one the manifestation of the Spirit is given for the common good. <sup>8</sup> To one there is given through the Spirit a message of **wisdom**, to another a message of **knowledge** by means of the same Spirit, <sup>9</sup> to another **faith** by the same Spirit, to another gifts of **healing** by that one Spirit, <sup>10</sup> to another **miraculous powers**, to another **prophecy**, to another **distinguishing between spirits**, to another **speaking in different kinds of tongues**, and to still another the **interpretation of tongues**. <sup>11</sup> All these are the work of one and the same Spirit, and he distributes them to each one, just as he determines.

2. **Christ’s Body, the church, is incredibly diverse AND the church needs each one --- GOD WANTS YOU TO BE A VITAL PART OF THE CHURCH and WE NEED YOU!**

**1 Corinthians 12:12-14:** <sup>12</sup> Just as a body, though one, has many parts, but all its many parts form one body, so it is with Christ. <sup>13</sup> *For we were all baptized by one Spirit so as to form one body—whether Jews or Gentiles, slave or free—and we were all given the one Spirit to drink.* <sup>14</sup> *Even so the body is not made up of one part but of many.*

3. **GOD has a VITAL & unique part for you at SHUMC**

**1 Corinthians 12:17-20:** If the whole body were an eye, where would the sense of hearing be? If the whole body were an ear, where would the sense of smell be? <sup>18</sup> But in fact God has placed the parts in the body, every one of them, just as he wanted them to be. <sup>19</sup> If they were all one part, where would the body be? <sup>20</sup> *As it is, there are many parts, but one body.*

4. **Like a good family ... if one part suffers and hurts, everyone feels the pain and shares concern & tries to**

help as they may be called or led. Perhaps ask, “WHAT WOULD JESUS DO?” and then prayerfully do likewise.

**1 Corinthians 12:24-27:** ... But God has put the body together, giving greater honor to the parts that [seemingly] lacked [prominence], <sup>25</sup> so that there should be no division in the body, but that its parts should have equal concern for each other. <sup>26</sup> If one part suffers, every part suffers with it; if one part is honored, every part rejoices with it. <sup>27</sup> **NOW YOU ARE the body of Christ, and EACH ONE OF YOU IS A [vital] PART OF IT.**

5. When doing God’s work and being a part of Christ’s body it is important to realize that:

A. “LOVE” MUST BE THE MOTIVATION & THE EFFECT.

B. FAILING TO BE ROOTED & EFFECTED IN “LOVE” MAY NOT ONLY NEGATE THE GOOD WORK, BUT ALSO UNDERMINE IT.

**1 Corinthians 12:30b-13:3 & 13:** And yet I will show you the most excellent way. If I speak in the tongues of men or of angels, **but do not have love, I am only a resounding gong** or a clanging cymbal. <sup>2</sup> If I have the gift of prophecy and can fathom all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have a faith that can move mountains, **but do not have love, I am nothing.** <sup>3</sup> If I give all I possess to the poor and give over my body to hardship that I may boast, **but do not have love, I gain nothing.** ... And now these three remain: faith, hope, love. **But the greater of these is LOVE**

## METHOD OF BAPTISM THROUGHOUT HISTORY

Tradition	Meaning	Mode
Initiation	Meaning centered on the water as a sacramental symbol of God’s cleansing.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Mode of baptism is not critical; any method can be used.</li> <li>- The symbolic application of water is crucial.</li> <li>- Methods needed to be flexible during times of persecution.</li> </ul>
Identification	The act of immersion symbolizes identifying with Christ’s death and burial, while rising out of the water symbolizes resurrection and eternal life.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Emphasis is on outward expression of inward faith through immersion.</li> <li>- One of the main meanings of the Greek word <i>baptizo</i> is “to cover with water.”</li> </ul>
Infusion	Infusion of the Spirit’s power is highlighted.	The activity of the Spirit is more important than the specific mode of baptism.

Those who advocate *infant baptism* point to covenantal promises that include children (Genesis 17:7) as well as instances in Scripture where entire households—including children and slaves—were baptized based on the faith of the head of the household, such as:  
**Acts 16:32-33:** *Then they spoke the word of the Lord to him and to all the others in his house. At that hour of the night the jailer took them and washed their wounds; then immediately he and all his family were baptized.* (See also Acts 18:8; 1 Cor. 1:16.)

**Acts 2:38-39:** Peter replied, *Repent and be baptized, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins. And you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. The promise is for you and your children and for all who are far off—for all whom the Lord our God will call.*

Those who advocate *believer’s baptism* refer to Bible passages that reveal recognition and repentance as a sign of readiness for baptism such as:

**Acts 2:38:** Peter replied, *Repent and be baptized, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins. And you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.*

**Acts 2:41:** *Those who accepted his message were baptized, and about three thousand were added to their number that day.*

**Acts 8:12:** *But when they believed Philip as he preached the good news of the kingdom of God and the name of Jesus Christ, they were baptized, both men and women.*

### Infant Baptism

Emphasis on faith as a gift from God
God who acts
Command and promise of God
Covenant and covenant community
Old Testament model of circumcision

### Believer’s Baptism

Emphasis on faith as a human response to God’s grace
Believer who trusts
Obedience and faith of believer
Believer’s witness to the world
Old Testament model of sacrifice