



Repentance Tabernacle Church

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Unified Body!

Scripture: 1 Corinthians 12:12-31

Unified –The biblical definition according to Scripture, everyone is given the same Spirit, so we are unified as one body—the body of Christ. Also, brought together, combined, or united.

The Corinthians' problem was not the lack of spiritual knowledge but a lack of spiritual relationship. When we come into the church we bring with us misconceptions, fleshly inclinations, and cultural tendencies that sometimes hinder our relationship with Christ and progress in the body of Christ. **In the church, there is a role for every individual to fill. All talents, regardless of how seemingly insignificant, are necessary to achieve unity in the body.**

The members of the church at Corinth were those whose former lifestyles exhibited the best and worst of that city. **First Corinthians 6:9 lists the former sinful practices of those who had been born again.** Paul reminded them that they were temples of the living God (1 Corinthians 6:19). If they would conquer the problems of sinful Corinth that were encroaching upon the church, they would have to work together. As people of God today, the Corinthians were one body of many members who needed to seek the purpose of God for them as a **unified body** of believers. Therefore, we like them must yield to the Spirit of God that has set us free from the bondage of sin.

God is absolutely one and we can receive only one true Spirit from God. When we receive the Holy Ghost we receive the Spirit of God, the unifying force in the church. The Lord is not interested in us being identical, but He does desire for His Holy Spirit to act as a catalyst to initiate the change needed to produce **unity of Spirit** and purpose among all His people. The Holy Ghost is the spiritual “**DNA**” common to the body of Christ. Every member of the body is joined together to constitute what the Scripture refers to as the body of Christ—the church.

The Corinthian church was not unlike the church today in the sense that its members were all unique individuals. No person is stronger than the strength of his/her relationship to God. The body of Christ is most effective when it allows the source of its life, the love of God, **to be the connective tissue that holds everything together!**

God has designed the human body so that every member working together brings glory or purpose to the whole body; there is very little glory within individual bodily members apart from the whole body. So it is in the church. We all serve different functions in the body of Christ. Some will preach, teach, or evangelize. Others will do administrative or secretarial tasks. Still others will find their place of effectiveness in outreach, music, or support systems of the church operation.

If each member of the body looked at other members with a desire to accept and value them for what they are, it would help prevent controversies and jealousies that arise from self-centeredness. Every believer is a member of Christ's body by the Holy Ghost and as such has a definite ministry.

The Corinthians were aware of their power, but they were ignorant of their purpose. They also were too self-centered to see the gifts as being a ministry of the whole body. There were some in Corinth who felt the work of the Spirit was incomplete unless they were individually present with their gift. **But the spiritual gifts are resident in the church, not individuals, so that the church may be edified according to God's holy purposes.**

Since the gifts are of the Spirit, everyone who is filled with the Spirit has the potential for God to use him/her in one or all of the gifts. In the kingdom of God every member is knitted together by His Spirit. The church is one body of all people. We must do whatever is necessary to have unity. We should avoid any personal goals that would hinder the work of the whole church. Moreover, we should never allow personal prejudices based on money, ethnicity, or social standing prevent us from being the part of the body that God has called us to be.

May God bless you to be unified in the body of Christ!