

AND YOU THINK YOU'VE GOT PROBLEMS

A Study of First Corinthians

MR. POTATO HEAD GOES TO CORINTH

1 Corinthians 12:12-31

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The human body has many parts, but the many parts make up one whole body. So it is with the body of Christ.

1 Corinthians 12:12 NLT

What does God want us to understand about spiritual gifts and the body of Christ?

1. There is to be unity, not division.

For even as the body is one and yet has many members, and all the members of the body, though they are many, are one body. For by one Spirit, we were all baptized in one body, whether Jews or Greeks, whether slaves or free, and we were all made to drink of one Spirit. 1 Cor. 12:12-13

A. The body is one.

B. Jesus baptizes all believers with the Spirit into His body.

*“As for me, I baptize you with water for repentance, but He who is coming after me is mightier than I, and I am not fit to remove His sandals; **He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire.**”*

Matthew 3:11

* Baptism with the Spirit is not the filling of the Spirit.

But if anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, he does not belong to Him. Romans 8:9

2. There is to be diversity, not uniformity.

For the body is not one member, but many. If the foot says, “Because I am not a hand, I am not a part of the body,” it is not for this reason any the less a part of the body. And if the ear says, “Because I am not an eye, I am not a part of the body,” it is not for this reason any the less a part of the body.

1 Cor. 12:14-16

- A. The one body cannot function without many members.

If the whole body were an eye, where would the hearing be? If the whole were hearing, where would the sense of smell be?

1 Cor. 12:17

- B. The one God is in charge of the gifts and the placement.

But now God has placed the members in the body, each one of them, in the body, just as He desired. 1 Cor. 12:18

* No Christian has an inferior or superior gift!

3. There is to be harmony, not chaos.

If they were all one member, where would the body be? But now there are many members, but one body. And the eye cannot say to the hand, "I have no need of you"; or again the head to the feet, "I have no need of you."

1 Cor. 12:19-21

- A. We need each other.

...that there should be no division in the body, but that the members should have the same care for one another. 1 Cor. 12:25

- B. We need each other to exercise his/her gifts.

- C. We need to be content with what God has given us.

But you earnestly desire the greater gifts, and I show you a still more excellent way. 1 Cor. 12:31

Are you using your gift to help the body?