

<p>Bible Text English Standard Version</p>	<p>Observations What does the text say?</p>	<p>Interpretations & Questions What does it mean to all Christians?</p>	<p>Applications What does it mean to me?</p>
<p>1 Corinthians 12:1-11</p> <p>Spiritual Gifts</p> <p>1 Now concerning[a] spiritual gifts,[b] brothers,[c] I do not want you to be uninformed. 2 You know that when you were pagans you were led astray to mute idols, however you were led. 3 Therefore I want you to understand that no one speaking in the Spirit of God ever says “Jesus is accursed!” and no one can say “Jesus is Lord” except in the Holy Spirit.</p> <p>4 Now there are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit; 5 and there are varieties of service, but the same Lord; 6 and there are varieties of activities, but it is the same God who empowers them all in everyone. 7 To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good. 8 For to one is given through the Spirit the utterance of wisdom, and to another the utterance of knowledge according to the same Spirit, 9 to another faith by the same Spirit, to another gifts of healing by the one Spirit, 10 to another the working of miracles, to another prophecy, to another the ability to distinguish between spirits, to another various kinds of tongues, to another the interpretation of tongues. 11 All these are empowered by one and the same Spirit, who apportions to each one individually as he wills.</p>			
<p>Footnotes:</p> <p>a: 1 Corinthians 12:1 The expression <i>Now concerning</i> introduces a reply to a question in the Corinthians' letter; see 7:1</p> <p>b: 1 Corinthians 12:1 Or <i>spiritual persons</i></p> <p>c: 1 Corinthians 12:1 Or <i>brothers and sisters</i></p>			

First Love

Lesson 11

1 Corinthians 12:1-31

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Summary:			
<p>1 Corinthians 12:12-31</p> <p>One Body with Many Members</p> <p>12 For just as the body is one and has many members, and all the members of the body, though many, are one body, so it is with Christ. 13 For in one Spirit we were all baptized into one body—Jews or Greeks, slaves[d] or free—and all were made to drink of one Spirit.</p> <p>14 For the body does not consist of one member but of many. 15 If the foot should say, “Because I am not a hand, I do not belong to the body,” that would not make it any less a part of the body. 16 And if the ear should say, “Because I am not an eye, I do not belong to the body,” that would not make it any less a part of the body. 17 If the whole body were an eye, where would be the sense of hearing? If the whole body were an ear, where would be the sense of smell? 18 But as it is, God arranged the members in the body, each one of them, as he chose. 19 If all were a single member, where would the body be? 20 As it is, there are many parts,[e] yet one body.</p> <p>21 The eye cannot say to the hand, “I have no need of you,” nor again the head to the feet, “I have no need of you.” 22 On the contrary, the parts of the body that seem to be weaker are indispensable, 23 and on those parts of the body that we think less honorable we bestow the greater honor, and our unrepresentable</p>			

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1 Corinthians 12:1-31

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<p>parts are treated with greater modesty, 24 which our more presentable parts do not require. But God has so composed the body, giving greater honor to the part that lacked it, 25 that there may be no division in the body, but that the members may have the same care for one another. 26 If one member suffers, all suffer together; if one member is honored, all rejoice together.</p> <p>27 Now you are the body of Christ and individually members of it. 28 And God has appointed in the church first apostles, second prophets, third teachers, then miracles, then gifts of healing, helping, administrating, and various kinds of tongues. 29 Are all apostles? Are all prophets? Are all teachers? Do all work miracles? 30 Do all possess gifts of healing? Do all speak with tongues? Do all interpret? 31 But earnestly desire the higher gifts.</p> <p>And I will show you a still more excellent way.</p>			
<p>Footnotes:</p> <p>d: 1 Corinthians 12:13 Or <i>servants</i>; Greek <i>bondservants</i> e: 1 Corinthians 12:20 Or <i>members</i>; also verse 22</p>			
<p>Summary:</p>			

Together, Christians are the body of Christ. Our unity can be compared to the human body which works as a whole while being made of many interdependent parts. As members of Christ's body, we are challenged to neither think too highly or lowly of ourselves or others. Everyone has valuable contributions to make.

Consider the following verses about the church. Which one captures your attention and why?

Romans 12:4-8

4 For as in one body we have many members,^[a] and the members do not all have the same function, **5** so we, though many, are one body in Christ, and individually members one of another. **6** Having gifts that differ according to the grace given to us, let us use them: if prophecy, in proportion to our faith; **7** if service, in our serving; the one who teaches, in his teaching; **8** the one who exhorts, in his exhortation; the one who contributes, in generosity; the one who leads,^[b] with zeal; the one who does acts of mercy, with cheerfulness.

a: Greek *parts*; also verse 5

b: Or *gives aid*

Ephesians 1:22-23

22 And he put all things under his feet and gave him as head over all things to the church, **23** which is his body, the fullness of him who fills all in all.

Colossians 1:18

18 And he is the head of the body, the church. He is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, that in everything he might be preeminent.

1 Peter 4:10

10 As each has received a gift, use it to serve one another, as good stewards of God's varied grace.

Reflecting on these verses, do you tend to overvalue or undervalue yourself as a part of Christ's body?

Space for Grace

“If God gives me any little gift at all, He gives it not that I may gather people about myself, but that it may through me be a blessing for others.” *Dr. Henrietta C. Mears.*

Consider one of the following prompts to further reflect upon this lesson, or follow where the Spirit leads.

- Make a list of some Christians you know and how you see them serving as part of the body of Christ.
- How can you affirm or encourage the giftedness of someone else this week?
- Thinking back on your life, is there a story that God brings to mind about how you are blessed in the body of Christ?

Prayer Requests
