

CITY OF THE LIVING GOD

THE BODY OF CHRIST

38

SERIES

In dedication to all the soul-winners that need a Bible study on understanding the purpose of the different members of the Body of Christ.

Copyright © 2025, Paul J. Baumeister, Ph.D.

The author reserves all rights to this text. No part shall be downloaded or stored in a retrieval system other than as required for browsing. It may not be reproduced, printed or copied without written permission from the author.

Published by Paul Baumeister, P.O. Box 2366, Elk Grove, California 95759.

Printed in the United States of America.



City of ^{the} Living God



“For by one Spirit we were all baptized into one body—whether Jews or Greeks, whether slaves or free—and have all been made to drink into one Spirit” (1 Cor. 12:13).

A key to knowing our purpose in the Church of the Living God, is by understanding how the Body of Christ is constituted. It is by the baptism of the Holy Spirit that we are united under one purpose. The dividing of the language at the Tower of Babel brought division and separated people from each other. It was their judgement for trying to bypass God and rebel against his authority. While the dividing of tongues at Babel brought division, the diversity of tongues at Pentecost brought unity. The Apostle Paul tells us that the Baptism of the Spirit brings us into “one body.” What does that look like to be one body?

God does not want his people divided. Nothing should stand in the way of his people being unified and together. It is the will of God that every member of the body understands the importance of being of the same mind and same purpose in God’s Church.

ONE BODY

The birthday of the Church that is recorded in the book of Acts chapter 2 shows us the picture of how God wanted his church to be unified as one body. Just look at the words in the first few verses and you will read about how the believers were in “one accord” and together in “one place.” That is not just a coincidence; that is how God wanted the Church to begin.

Acts 2:1-4

“And when the day of Pentecost was fully come, they were all with one accord in one place. And suddenly there came a sound from heaven as of a rushing mighty wind, and it filled all the house where they were sitting. And there appeared unto them cloven tongues like as of fire, and it sat upon each of them. And they were all filled with the Holy Ghost, and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance.”

The Pentecostal experience of the outpouring of God’s Spirit upon the early church was what brought all people from all backgrounds together. The people that showed up at the outpouring of the Spirit were Jews and proselytes from all over the known world. They came to celebrate the Jewish Feast of Pentecost. Notice that the Bible identifies the countries from which they came from.

Acts 2:8-11

“And how is it that we hear, each in our own language in which we were born? Parthians and Medes and Elamites, those dwelling in Mesopotamia, Judea and Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia, Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt and the parts of Libya adjoining Cyrene, visitors from Rome, both Jews and proselytes, Cretans and Arabs—we hear them speaking in our own tongues the wonderful works of God.”

People from sixteen different countries are present. The people heard the 120 disciples all speaking in different tongues (languages). The Pentecostal experience was the glue that held them altogether. The

became brothers and sisters by the Spirit of God regardless of their different countries and languages that they spoke. We see this happening at every outpouring of the Spirit. The boundaries were erased and the different cultures all came together. In Acts chapter 8, we see the Samaritans becoming part of the church—even though they had been the enemy of the Jews. In Acts chapter 10, the door is opened to the Gentiles and Peter explains how that the Holy Spirit being poured out on them happened just as it did with the Jews. In other words, there was no difference. God unified them together through his Spirit.

Acts 11:15-17

“And as I began to speak, the Holy Spirit fell upon them, as upon us at the beginning. Then I remembered the word of the Lord, how He said, ‘John indeed baptized with water, but you shall be baptized with the Holy Spirit.’ If therefore God gave them the same gift as He gave us when we believed on the Lord Jesus Christ, who was I that I could withstand God.”

The Apostle Paul further describes this union that happened in the Church. If we are all born by the same Spirit, then we all are of the same body.

Ephesians 4:3-4

“Endeavoring to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called in one hope of your calling.”

Obviously, Paul is stressing how the Spirit makes us all one in God’s body. He says also:

Ephesians 2:13-15

“But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far off have been brought near by the blood of Christ. For He Himself is our peace, who has made both one, and has broken down the middle wall of separation, having abolished in His flesh the enmity, that is, the law of commandments contained in ordinances, so as to create in Himself one new man from the two, thus making peace.”

The early church was multicultural as we have already established. They were from all over the known world and were part of the one Body of Christ. We know that these different groups spoke different earthly languages such as Latin, Greek, Aramaic, Hebrew, and other languages, yet they were all a part of the same body. Even language did not separate them. Their cultural backgrounds varied widely. Some Jews only spoke Hebrew while others spoke many other languages from where they lived. The Hellenistic Jews were people that adopted the culture of the countries that they lived in. Then there were Samaritans and Gentiles that lived and ate completely different than the Jews. Yet, they were still together in One Body. They came together for one purpose: To glorify God and to spread his gospel to the ends of the earth.

MANY MEMBERS

The apostle explained how the diversity of backgrounds that existed in the church could help us understand how the diversity of gifts within the church can be operated with complete unity. In 1 Corinthians 12 he presents us with the nine gifts of the Spirit. It is that same Spirit that enables us to be used in a variety of ways, but it is all part of being one body. He uses the analogy of the human body. We are all many members of that same body. There is one body and many members. The key is understanding that although we all have a different gift, we are all part of that same body.

1 Corinthians 12:12-14

“For as the body is one and has many members, but all the members of that one body, being many, are one body, so also is Christ. For by one Spirit we were all baptized into one body—whether Jews or Greeks, whether slaves or free—and have all been made to drink into one Spirit. For in fact the body is not one member but many.”

He gives a list of nine gifts that are used within the church. These are all powered gifts of the Spirit. The purpose for these gifts is to edify or build up the Church. It is to help the body grow.

1 Corinthians 12:7-10

“But the manifestation of the Spirit is given to each one for the profit of all: for to one is given the word of wisdom through the Spirit, to another the word of knowledge through the same Spirit, to another faith by the same Spirit, to another gifts of healings by the same Spirit, to another the working of miracles, to another prophecy, to another discerning of spirits, to another different kinds of tongues, to another the interpretation of tongues.”

These are gifts beyond the norm. For example, the gift of faith is not the same as faith. All of us have faith, but the gift of faith is a faith beyond the norm. It is an added measure of faith. The main reason for Paul giving us this list is so that we can understand: a) That they are all important as necessary gifts within the church, b) That no gift is greater than the other, and c) That we all have a part to play within the church.

1 Corinthians 12:7-10

“If the foot should say, “Because I am not a hand, I am not of the body,” is it therefore not of the body? And if the ear should say, “Because I am not an eye, I am not of the body,” is it therefore not of the body? If the whole body were an eye, where would be the hearing? If the whole were hearing, where would be the smelling? But now God has set the members, each one of them, in the body just as He pleased.”

Paul was addressing people within the church that felt they were superior to others because they had a certain gift that the others did not have. Also, there were those that compared themselves to other leaders, which the Bible says it is not wise to do so (2 Cor. 10:12). Everyone has different gifts and understanding how their gifts are needed in the church is key to helping build up the church. We all have gifts that are needed for the same purpose in the body. We all have the same purpose and the same source of that purpose: The Spirit of God. Once again Paul says, *“There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called in one hope of your calling”* (Eph. 4:4).

As one person put it, “Everybody in the body is somebody.” In God’s church there are no big “I’s” and little “U’s” and no little “me’s” and big “thee’s.” God’s church does not have an upper-class and lower-class. We all are equal at the foot of the cross. What puts us all on the same plane is the baptism of the Holy Ghost. His Spirit brings us into the family of God at the same level-regardless of our background.

I heard a similar story from Aesop’s Stories:

“One fine day, it occurred to the Members of the Body that they were doing all the work and the Belly was having all the food. So, they held a meeting and, after a long discussion, decided to strike work until the Belly consented to take its proper share of the work. For a day or two, the Hands refused to take the food, the Mouth refused to receive it, and the Teeth had no work to do. But after a day or two, the Members began to find that they themselves were not in a very active condition. The Hands could hardly move, and the Mouth was all parched and dry, while the Legs were unable to support the rest. Thus, they found that even the Belly, in its dull quiet way, was doing necessary work for the Body, and that all must work together or the Body will go to pieces.”

Obviously, we all need each other. The healthiest church body is when everyone recognizes their gifts and the importance of working together with others.

FINDING OUR GIFTS

In our walk with God, we will eventually find our gifts and talents that God gave us. The best way to discover these gifts is to be active in the church and be available to help others. Since the gifts are for building up the Church, making yourself available to those that are in need can be one way to develop these gifts that God has given you. Everyone has “latent gifts.” Latent means they exist but are not yet developed. Unless you are active, you won’t discover these gifts. They are only developed as you become active in the work of God. The nine gifts of the Spirit are

not the only gifts that are part of the Body of Christ. The Apostle Paul expands the list in the same chapter.

1 Corinthians 12:27-29

“Now you are the body of Christ, and members individually. And God has appointed these in the church: first apostles, second prophets, third teachers, after that miracles, then gifts of healings, helps, administrations, varieties of tongues. Are all apostles? Are all prophets? Are all teachers? Are all workers of miracles?”

Not only are gifts developed by our action within the Body of Christ, but Paul even tells us to “desire the best gifts” (1 Cor. 12:31). Not that there are better gifts than others, but the best gifts for that present situation within the church. Whatever the Church needs for the time, desire those gifts.

For more Information
Paul Baumeister
P.O. 2366, Elk Grove, CA 95759

**[Click here to access the
complete series](#)**