

## UNITY AND DIVERSITY ~ Romans 12:4-8

→ Scripture Reading Romans 12:1-8

### THERE IS ONE BODY ~ Romans 12:4-5

[4] Just as each of us has one body with many members, and these members do not all have the same function, [5] so in Christ we who are many form one body, and each member belongs to all the others.

#### COMPARISON: Newell

- our bodies have MANY parts
- these parts form a UNITY
- each part is DEPENDENT on other parts
- the parts do DIFFERENT work

### APPLICATION

**1 Cor. 12:12** (NLT) The human body has many parts, but the many parts make up **ONE whole body**. So it is with the body of Christ.

**1 Cor. 12:17-20** (NIV) 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? [18] But in fact **God has arranged the parts in the body**, every one of them, **just as HE wanted them to be**. [19] If they were all one part, where would the body be? [20] As it is, there are many parts, **but ONE body**.

### APPLICATION

**James 1:16-17** (NIV) Don't be deceived, my dear brothers. [17] Every good and perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of the heavenly lights, who does not change like shifting shadows.

### WITH MANY DIFFERENT PARTS AND FUNCTIONS ~ Romans 12:6-8

[6] We have different gifts, according to the grace given us. If a man's gift is prophesying, let him use it in proportion to his faith. [7] If it is serving, let him serve; if it is teaching, let him teach; [8] if it is encouraging, let him encourage; if it is contributing to the needs of others, let him give generously; if it is leadership, let him govern diligently; if it is showing mercy, let him do it cheerfully.

### APPLICATION

**We are ONE body - UNITY** vs. 4-5

**We have MANY members/parts - DIVERSITY** vs 6-8

**The members do NOT have the same function but they share the same PURPOSE** - Ingram

**Ephesians 4:15-16** (NLT) Instead, we will speak the truth in love, growing in every way more and more like Christ, who is the head of his body, the church. [16] He makes the whole body fit together perfectly. As each part does its own special work, it helps the other parts grow, so that the whole body is healthy and growing and full of love.

**Spiritual Gift** = God-granted empowerment for ministry on the part of believers Holman Bib Dict

**Spiritual Gift** - a special ability or skill GIVEN by God for the BENEFIT of the Church

**1 Peter 4:10-11** (NLT) God has given EACH of you a gift from his great variety of spiritual gifts. Use them WELL to serve one another.

**1 Cor. 12:7** (ESV) To EACH is given the manifestation of the Spirit FOR the common good.

### **Spiritual Gifts**

- are GIVEN by God
- to EACH believer
- FOR the COMMON Good (to SERVE one another)

**Spiritual Gifts are tools to build with, not toys to play with, or weapons to fight with.** Wiersbe

## **APPLICATION**

### **Dangers in Emphasizing Spiritual Gifts**

- focus on the GIFT rather than our Lord Jesus
- become SELF-ABSORBED doing THEIR thing
- refuse to SERVE the in any other way

## **TAKE AWAY ??**

### **Three Questions We ALL Ask** Ingram

- **Who am I?** I am a Forgiven Sinner saved by Grace,
- **Where do I Belong?** I am part of the Body of Christ -
- **What am I here for?** Gifted by God to Fulfill HIS Plan and Purpose

**Ephesians 2:8-10** (NIV) For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith-and this not from yourselves, it is the gift of God - [9] not by works, so that no one can boast. [10] For we are God's workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.

**Ephesians 2:10** (NLT) For we are God's masterpiece. He has created us anew in Christ Jesus, so we can do the good things he planned for us long ago.

## **QUESTIONS**

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.