

Studies In First Corinthians

(I Corinthians 12:12-31)

1. Is the Lord's church one body?

Yes: *"For as the body is one, and hath many members, and all the members of that one body, being many, are one body: so also is Christ" (I Corinthians 12:12).*

- **I Corinthians 10:17** and **Colossians 3:15**.

2. Is there any type of racial or social divisions in the body of Christ?

No: *"For by one Spirit are we all baptized into one body, whether we be Jews or Gentiles, whether we be bond or free; and have been all made to drink into one Spirit" (I Corinthians 12:13).*

- **Romans 3:29, Galatians 3:23-29, Ephesians 2:11-22, Ephesians 3:6, and Colossians 3:10-11.**
- Baptism, though not by itself (**John 8:23-24, Acts 3:19, Acts 8:35-39**, etc.), puts one into the body of Christ (**Acts 2:37-41; 47, Romans 6:3, and Galatians 3:27**).
- This is a spiritual birth (**John 3:1-5**).

3. Does each member of the Lord's body matter even if that member seems lesser in some way?

Yes: *"(14) For the body is not one member, but many. (15) If the foot shall say, Because I am not the hand, I am not of the body; is it therefore not of the body? (16) And if the ear shall say, Because I am not the eye, I am not of the body; is it therefore not of the body? (17) If the whole body were an eye, where were the hearing? If the whole were hearing, where were the smelling? (18) But now hath God set the members every one of them in the body, as it hath pleased him. (19) And if they were all one member, where were the body? (20) But now are they many members, yet but one body. (21) And the eye cannot say unto the hand, I have no need of thee: nor again the head to the feet, I have no need of you. (22) Nay, much more those members of the body, which seem to be more feeble, are necessary" (I Corinthians 12:14-22).*

- **Romans 12:10** and **Ephesians 4:15-16**.

4. If we were to give honor to an individual in the body of Christ, would it be the strong member or the weaker member?

The weaker: *"(23) And those members of the body, which we think to be less honourable, upon these we bestow more abundant honour; and our uncomely parts have more abundant comeliness. (24) For our comely parts have no need: but God hath tempered the body together, having given more abundant honour to that part which lacked" (I Corinthians 12:23-24; cf. **Romans 15:1-3** and **I Thessalonians 5:14**).*

5. Should we care more for one person in the body than for another?

No: *“That there should be no schism in the body; but that the members should have the same care one for another” (I Corinthians 12:25).*

- No schism [division; Strong’s #4978] in the body (**Psalms 133:1, Jeremiah 32:39, John 17:20-23, Acts 2:46, Romans 15:5-6, I Corinthians 1:10, II Corinthians 13:11, Ephesians 4:1-3, Philippians 1:27, Philippians 2:1-2, Philippians 3:16, and I Peter 3:8**).
- There should be the same, genuine (**Romans 12:9 and I Peter 1:22**), concern for one another (**II Corinthians 8:16, Philippians 2:25-30, and Philemon 1:22**). *More in next verse!

6. Should we know each other’s sorrows and joys?

Yes, we should know and share in those sorrows and joys: *“And whether one member suffer, all the members suffer with it; or one member be honoured, all the members rejoice with it” (I Corinthians 12:26).*

- **Romans 12:15, Hebrews 13:1-3, and I Peter 3:8.**

7. What Scripture, in our current study, shows the church/body is not a physical structure?

“Now ye are the body of Christ, and members in particular” (I Corinthians 12:27).

- We [faithful Christians] are the Lord’s house/temple (**II Corinthians 6:16, Ephesians 5:30, Hebrews 3:6, and I Peter 2:5**).

8. Even in the time of miracles, were there different roles and spiritual gifts in the Lord’s body?

Yes: *“(28) And God hath set some in the church, first apostles, secondarily prophets, thirdly teachers, after that miracles, then gifts of healings, helps, governments, diversities of tongues. 29) Are all apostles? are all prophets? are all teachers? are all workers of miracles? (30) Have all the gifts of healing? do all speak with tongues? do all interpret” (I Corinthians 12:28-30)?*

- **Romans 12:4-5, I Corinthians 12:4-11, and Ephesians 4:7-13.**

9. Is there something better than spiritual gifts?

Yes: *“But covet earnestly the best gifts: and yet shew I unto you a more excellent way” (I Corinthians 12:31).*

- The more excellent way is faith, hope, and love which stands while spiritual gifts were temporary (**I Corinthians 13:8-10**).