



**"A Christ-Exalting Understanding of the Spirit's Activity in the Church-Pt. 2"**

*In 1<sup>st</sup> Corinthians 12:4-27, there are 4 reasons that Christians should esteem the God-ordained diversified unity in the body of Christ:*

- I. Because the diversified unity of Christ's body is accomplished by the sovereign choice of the Holy Spirit—v.4-11
- II. Because the diversified unity of Christ's body is comprised of singularity despite having many parts—v.12
- III. Because the diversified unity of Christ's body is initiated by the uniform work of the Holy Spirit—v.13
- IV. Because the diversified unity of Christ's body is established on the basis of equal importance—v.14-27

A spiritual gift is a supernatural, Holy Spirit-energized ability that is sovereignly given by God for service within the local church...(1)

Cultural conditioning leads to a modest hiding of what is most essential for creation and nurture, while we display parts of the body which play a less indispensable function in such terms. Yet, paradoxically, our very [shame] over the so-called "less presentable" parts leads to care and attention in how we cover or even adorn them...This seeming paradox admirably illustrates Paul's point about the church as Christ's limbs and members. Those whom the [Corinthian] church likes to put on "on display" as our "best" people (whether because of their supposed wisdom and knowledge, or more visible gifts of the Spirit such as tongues or mighty works) are far from being the essence of the church. (2)

It follows that in the Body of Christ there are, strictly speaking, no private sufferings. All are shared because there is one life of the whole. Accordingly, wrong done to one member is wrong done to the whole Church, and therefore to Christ himself." Those at Corinth who make others feel inferior merely to enhance their own status thus ultimately demean themselves, and Christ...What affects one member affects all...[Thus] Ambition, envy, and status-seeking have no place in the commonality of the body and its interdependence. (3)

<sup>1</sup> Larry D. Pettegrew, *The New Covenant Ministry of the Holy Spirit*, 160.

<sup>2</sup> Anthony C. Thiselton, *The First Epistle to the Corinthians: A Commentary on the Greek Text*, NIGTC (Grand Rapids, MI: W.B. Eerdmans, 2000), 1008–1009.

<sup>3</sup> *Ibid*, 1012.