

- 1  “Truth to Transform a Worldly Church”
Studies in I Corinthians

“A Course In Body Building”

I Corinthians 12:1-13

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- 3  **Rugged Individualism**

- Far too many Christians today have a “maverick” mindset
- View themselves as rugged individuals
- “*Am I my brother’s keeper?*” [Gen. 4:9]
- “I am the captain of my fate; I am the master of my soul”
- “The philosophy that we are basically self-sufficient and do not need anyone else is Satan’s philosophy and the opposite of God’s plan and will for men.” John MacArthur

- 4  “Meet my needs” Mentality

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- 6  Paul had a high view of the church because he knew some things we do not know!

- Extraordinary conversion
- “Caught up into the third heaven,” and there he was given “an abundance of revelations.” [NIV = “surpassingly great revelations”]
- Concept of the continued incarnation of Christ in the church

- 7  I Corinthians 12: “A Course in Body Building”

- 8  The Essential Message Of This Chapter

- Spirituality
- Diversity
- Unity
- Mutuality
- Ministry

- 9  Spirituality

- “*Now concerning spiritual things*” [Verse 1a] - “*pneumatika*”
- “... *brothers, I do not want you to be ignorant.*” [v. 1b]
- “*You know that when you were pagans, somehow or other you were influenced and led astray to mute idols. Therefore I tell you that no one who is speaking by the Spirit of God says, “Jesus be cursed,” and no one can say, “Jesus is Lord,” except by the Holy Spirit.*” [vv. 2-3]

- 10  Two important truths

- 1) The natural man - “...*led astray to mute [‘dumb’] idols!*”
✓ [II Cor. 4:4; Rom. 8:7b; Rom. 3:11b; Jn. 6:44]
- 2) The Spirit filled Christian is defined primarily in terms of his subjection to the Sovereign Lordship of Christ and his yieldedness to the Spirit of Christ within!
✓ I Cor. 12:3b - “... *no one can say ‘Jesus is Lord,’ except by the Spirit.*”

- 11  Diversity

- The Trinity of the Godhead: the perfect example of unity in diversity and diversity in unity!
- “*There are different kinds of gifts, but the same Spirit. There are different kinds of service, but the same Lord. There are different kinds of working, but the same God works all of them in all men.*” - verses 4-6
- “*Now to each one the manifestation of the Spirit is given for the common good.*” - V.7
- “*The body is a unit, though it is made up of many parts; and though all its parts are many, they form one body.*”

So it is with Christ.” - Verse 12

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Unity

- Verse 13 *“For we were all baptized by one Spirit into one body—whether Jews or Greeks, slave or free—and we were all given the one Spirit to drink.”*
- Eph. 4:3 *“Make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace.”*
- John 17:21 *“... that all of them may be one, Father, just as you are in me and I am in you. May they also be in us so that the world may believe that you have sent me.”*

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Three necessary prerequisites for such unity

- vv. 14-20 We must all possess an attitude of humble acceptance of our divinely appointed role in the body, - i.e. not be envious!
- We must have an appreciation of what others are doing! [We need each other! We can't afford to be exclusive - “This is what it's all about! We don't need that!”]
- vv. 23-24 There must be an affirmation of the less spectacular and conspicuous gifts, which often do not get much recognition!

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Mutuality

- The true ‘unity’ produced by the Holy Spirit will lead to “mutuality;” [i.e. a conscious sense of interdependence upon each other for the carrying out of Christ's purpose in the church and a calm cooperation with each other!]

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Ministry

- Foundational to the success of the church is the realization that the Holy Spirit gives gifts as “tools” for ministry! [i.e. the spiritual gifts are not merely for personal enjoyment and gratification, but for productive and fruitful work in the various ministries of the church! - cf. Eph. 2:10!]

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