

The Spiritual Gifts 2: Mutual Dependence (12:12-30)

I. Introduction

- A. Illustration: A statue of Christ with no hands
- B. Brief Context
- C. Read text / pray

II. The body is one (1 Cor 12:12-14)

- A. v. 12: *so it is with* _____
 1. “Christ” and “the church” are used interchangeably (Acts 9:4)
 2. “Christ” magnifies the importance of the church
- B. v. 13 ... *in one Spirit we are all baptized into one body* ...
 1. We are baptized BY Christ, IN the Holy Spirit (Luke 3:16)
 2. How should we interpret the “*baptism in the Holy Spirit?*”
 - a. main line denominations – water baptism
 - b. Pentecostalism – “second blessing” (post-conversion)
 - c. The clear interpretation of the text in context
 - d. The damage of the Pentecostal error
- C. The “*inner-ring*” syndrome
 1. The lies and reality of the “*inner-ring*”
 2. Application: beware of smugness over being in the “*inner-ring*.”

III. Two metaphors demonstrating mutual dependence (1 Cor 12:15-26)

- A. **verses 15-19** – addresses those outside the “*inner-ring*”
 1. The church, like the physical body is composed of different parts
 2. A body with one part is grotesque
 3. All the parts of the body are necessary for it to function right
- B. **verses 20-26** – addresses the “*inner circle elitists*”
 1. No believer can dismiss another member of the body
 2. God intends to give honor to the seemingly less honorable gifts and ministries in the church (v. 24)
 - a. The work of the ministry that goes unseen
 - b. John the Baptist, the greatest and least (Luke 7:28)
 - c. The unique Christian call to secret service (Matt 6:3-5,18)
 3. Application: are you more prone to boasting or envy?
 4. Why has God arranged the body this way?
 - a. To alleviate divisions based on pride (v 25)
 - b. To develop mutual care and concern in the body (v. 25-26)

IV. Conclusion and Final Charge (1 Cor 12:27-30)

- A. Who does this text apply to?
 1. The centrality of the local church in the New Testament
- B. We need one another in the church
 1. Employ the gifts that God has uniquely given to you to BE Christ to each other and to the world