

*“The Baptism in the Holy Spirit”*  
*1 Corinthians 12:12, 13*

INTRO:

Controversy is the name of the game when we come to the trilogy of chapters here in **1 Corinthians 12-14**. Generally, controversy can be helpful in that it makes us examine again what we believe and why we believe it. The controversies over obscure concepts in the Scriptures are understandable, but the controversies I cannot understand are the debates over clearly taught truths in the Bible.

One of the controversies in the church today surrounds an event called the baptism of the Holy Spirit. Some try to make this a “second work of Grace” that occurs subsequent to salvation and is the means by which we “receive the Holy Spirit.” As we look at the Biblical teaching on this important subject we are going to see that none of these concepts are true. The baptism of the Holy Spirit takes place at salvation and thus is not “a second work of grace.”

*I. The Church Which Is His Body (v. 12)*

*II. The Baptism in The Holy Spirit (v. 13)*

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A. In these two verses, like the paragraph before them, we see the overall picture as well as the parts that make up the whole. **(1 Corinthians 12:12–13)**

***“For as the body is one and has many members, but all the members of that one body, being many, are one body, so also is Christ. For by one Spirit we were all baptized into one body—whether Jews or Greeks, whether slaves or free—and have all been made to drink into one Spirit.”***

1. What is the emphasis in these two verses? Indeed, what is Paul’s emphasis in this entire chapter to this point? We who are Christ’s are all a part of one body. The body has many parts, but the parts alone are not the one body.

2. Here in a sentence, Paul once again repeats the theme of this entire chapter;  
Unity -- one body -- diversity -- many parts.

B. What is Paul saying in **verse 12**? First, Paul is introducing the image he is going to explore through the rest of this chapter. The body is like the church.

1. How is the body similar to the church? First, the body like the church has a head. The head supplies mind and spirit to the body. No body exists apart from its head. A headless body is a dead body. The head of the church is Christ. **(Ephesians 4:15)**

***“But speaking the truth in love, may grow up into Him in all things, which is the head, even Christ:”***

When the church is properly united to Him, the church has function and life.

2. The body and the church each has different members which perform different functions.

3. The different members are not living or useful if they are separated from the unity of the body or the church. If I cut off my arm, it dies, it cannot function apart from the rest of my body.

C. Paul made another point. ***“So also is Christ” (v.12)***. He did not write, “so also is the body of Christ.” The link between the Lord Jesus Christ and His church is a very real and important union. The Lord Jesus is not simply a figure head of His church. He is in His church and His church is in Him. Our union with Jesus Christ is a vital union.

## ***II. The Baptism in The Holy Spirit (v. 13)***

A. Paul wrote ***“By one Spirit we have all been baptized into one body.” (v.13)*** The Greek word ***“by”*** is en. It can be translate one of three ways -- *by*, *in*, or *with*. It cannot be translated “of.” This is speaking of the Spirit of God as being the medium of our baptism. We were all baptized in the Holy Spirit.

B. Paul included all the believers in the Church at Corinth. He referred to those who thought themselves the “spiritually elite.” He also wrote about even the common believers. They all had been baptized. This baptism happened when they came to the place of recognizing their sinful condition and came to Christ by faith.

C. Paul taught them and us, how we are put into this special union with Jesus Christ. The parallel statement underlines the special relationship we have in Christ. **(v.13)**

***“We are all made to drink of ONE Spirit.”***

1. This completes the picture. Not only are we immersed in the Holy Spirit and into the body of Christ at salvation. The Holy Spirit indwells us. Do we see here perhaps the parallel to being the fullness of Him and filled with His fullness?

What does all of this say to us?

1. While the Baptism in the Holy Spirit always takes place when we come to Christ by faith. Only those who have come by faith have this baptism and this salvation.

2. We need to recognize the reality of our union with Jesus Christ. **Colossians 2:6**  
***“As you have therefore received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk in Him.”***

We received the Lord Jesus by faith. We must spend time in building a relationship with Him in prayer and in the Bible, and then living out my life in principled obedience to Him. That means abiding!