



ACCM

Bible Study: Tuesday, March 9, 2021. Topic: Letter to the Corinthians Parts 12b

I Cor 12.

THE UNITY OF THE BODY AND THE DIFFERENCES OF MINISTRY

INTRODUCTION: If there is anything that is destroying the church today, it is disunity. Disunity in church has been brought about by our inability to manage what the modern world is peddling as her stock in trade. This starts from freedom, to democratic values. In freedom, disrespect, convenience, individuality and many others things are pronounced. In Politics, since the operating index is number, the majority still holds sway even if they are spiritually in error. These believes have generated intolerance and sometimes quiet dissenting voices in the church. The end result is that we have a church where everyone holds an opinion which may be completely parallel to Gods'. The end result is disunity either passively or actively. As we examine I Cor 12 vis-a-vis unity, we pray for wisdom and God's help that we may fall in line with God's will as we study this.

THE UNITY OF THE BODY 12-27

What is the purpose of the gift? Eph 4:11-13, I Cor 12:7, I Cor 14:26, Col 1:28, I Peter 4: 10-11

It is not for show off.

The gift is supposed to unite and not to divide us. The distribution of spiritual gifts is a way to harness the unity that should exist amongst the believers and not something that should cause division.

The appointed members of the church are: I Cor 12:27

1. Apostles
2. Prophets
3. Teachers

4. Miracles
5. Gifts of healings
6. Helps
7. Administrations
8. Varieties of Tongues

Do you think God is limited to this list? Rom 12:4-8, Eph 4:11

This list is not exhaustive and I do not believe that this list limits God in gifts that He still will provide for the church.

Search for the gift that cuts across I Corinthians, Romans and Ephesians and mention some in Ephesians and Romans

Why and how has the gift caused division in the body today?

Because the gift is an object of unity, one man does not have it all but we compensate one another by that which we have so we become inter dependent and we all become acceptable by the same spirit.

Just as the gift is not all given to one person, we need each other to function perfectly in God's household. A malfunction of one part could have adverse effect on the entire body. Once you believe and operate as if you do not need me or my gift, a gaping hole is left in your life. The gift is also to help present the children of God perfect, to build us up, to glorify God.

Who chooses the gifts for the individual members of the body? I Cor 12:18

God set the membership as He pleases. Your part in the church is chosen by God. Since you have no part in the part given to you, you cannot boast of your ability.

Is there a room for someone not to perform his part in this gift? Eph 4:16.

We must all perform our share as members in this body. If one members suffers, we must all do something to ensure that the suffering part is healed. Otherwise the entire body will fail. Even if you think that your gift is the best in the church, please know that you cannot function without the inclusion of the other gifts.

What can we do to ensure that the suffering part is healed? Rom 12:3-8, I Cor 12:7, 25.

And what if the suffering part does not give us the opportunity to help? Rom 12:9-13

God created the parts so that there will be no division. In that manner we become interdependent. One part of the body cannot go away.

CONCLUSION: The reason for these gifts is so that the body could function well and function in unity. Eph 4:11-13. When the gift is misused, it becomes an instrument of disunity. It is our duty as the custodians of these gifts to use them according to the desire and purpose of the giver of the gifts. You could misuse the gift and you will still have it. Rom 11:29.