

Sunday, October 29, 2017—I Corinthians 12:15-19 As It Hath Pleas'd Him

### Introduction/Review

- Two weeks ago, before our Bible Conference we studied verses 12 through 14 of I Corinthians 12. Given the fact that it has been two weeks since our last study of I Corinthians I would like to review a few key points.
- Verse 12—begins a new paragraph that runs through the end of verse 14. Paul just got done saying in verse 11 that “the selfsame Spirit” was dividing the gifts “to every man severally as he will.” Now verse 12 opens with the expression “for as the body is one.” Paul’s dissertation about the nature and functioning of the body of Christ found in verses 12 through 26 is given within to context of explaining spiritual gifts to the Corinthians.
  - I Corinthians 12:27—redirects the reader’s attention back to the topic of spiritual gifts.
- Paul begins to use the illustration of the human body to instruct the Corinthians about Christ’s body as well as spiritual gifts. Just as the human body is comprised of many individual members so also is Christ. All the individual members serve their own independent functions yet they all work in concert with each other as a unified whole. Christ’s body works the same way. Christ has but one body that is comprised of many different members.
  - Ephesians 2:21-22
  - Ephesians 4:16
- Verse 13— the “one and selfsame Spirit” who was dividing the gifts to every man was also baptizing people into Christ’s one body. This baptism has nothing to do with water. This is spiritual baptism, the process whereby God the Holy Spirit takes a lost sinner out of Adam and places them into the Lord Jesus Christ. This is process whereby we become identified with the Lord Jesus Christ in his death, burial, and resurrection.
  - Romans 6:1-10
  - Colossians 2:9-12—these spiritual realities that are not made with hands.
- Who is the Spirit baptizing into the one body? Jews and Gentiles as well as bond or free. Before the close of the book of Acts, God the Holy Spirit was already in the process of reconciling Jews and Gentiles equally in one body by the cross and forming the body of Christ.
  - Galatians 3:26-29—during the Acts period Jews and Gentiles were being baptized into Christ by God the Holy Spirit.

- Romans 12:3-5—the body of Christ was already in existence when Paul wrote the book of Romans.
- All of humanity regardless of nationality (Jew or Gentile), sex (male or female), or position (bond or free) who trusts in the shed blood of Jesus Christ is made to drink “into” God the Holy Spirit. The use of the word “drink” here is metaphorical you cannot literally in the physical sense drink a glass of the Holy Spirit.
- Verse 14—ends the paragraph with a matter of fact statement. The body be it your physical body or the body of Christ is not comprised by one member but many.

### **I Corinthians 12:15**

- **If the foot shall say, Because I am not the hand, I am not of the body; is it therefore not of the body?**
- Verse 15 begins a new paragraph that is going to elaborate on the facts established by previous one.
- In verse 15 the condition “if” is followed by a verb (“shall say”) that is in the subjunctive mood. Remember that the subjunctive mood is the mood of possibility and potentiality. The action described may or may not occur, depending upon circumstances. Since a “foot” cannot talk Paul is speaking hypothetically if not rhetorically in verse 15 to make a point.
- The obvious answer is no. My foot and my hand belong to the same body namely mine.

### **I Corinthians 12:16**

- **And if the ear shall say, Because I am not the eye, I am not of the body; is it therefore not of the body?**
- Example two in verse 16 is identical to example one in verse 15 in terms of its grammatical structure. Again, the obvious answer is no. My ear cannot pronounce itself to be no longer part of my body.

### **I Corinthians 12:17**

- **If the whole body *were* an eye, where *were* the hearing? If the whole *were* hearing, where *were* the smelling?**

- Examples three and four in verse 17 drive home the point but in a slightly different manner. Imagine if you were just a big eye ball or ear. Eyes are for seeing and ears are for hearing. God designed each part/member of your human body serve a specialized function.

### **I Corinthians 12:18**

- **But now hath God set the members every one of them in the body, as it hath pleased him.**
- Just as God placed all the members of the human body in place as it pleased him he is doing the same thing with the body of Christ his spiritual body.
  - Genesis 1:26-31—God looked at the man that He created in his own image and likeness and said that “it was very good.”
- Spiritually speaking God is doing the same thing with the body of Christ he is forming it and placing members into it as it “pleased him.” It His body and he can chose to form it anyway He wishes.
  - Ephesians 1:5-9
  - Philippians 2:13
- God choses to do things in the manner that give him pleasure.

### **I Corinthians 12:19**

- **And if they were all one member, where *were* the body?**
- The nature of the condition changes when we get to verse 19. This time the condition “if” is followed by a verb (“were”) in the indicative mood. Recall from previous studies that the indicative mood is a simple statement of fact.
- As Paul concludes the paragraph in verse 19 he states the following fact in summation. If every member were of the same sort there would be no body.
- Colossians 1:18—Jesus Christ is the head of the church the body of Christ.
  - Ephesians 1:22-23
  - Ephesians 4:15-16