



A THE CHURCH BEAUTIFUL MESS

A STUDY ON 1 CORINTHIANS





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1 Corinthians 12:12

12 For just as the body is ONE and has many parts, and all the parts of that body, though many, are ONE body—so also is Christ.

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The Beauty of Inter-Dependence

1 Corinthians 12:12-31

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God has designed His church to be a community of complementary interdependence.



1. The Beauty of Inter-Dependence

a. Is the **ESSENCE** of the Christianity.

*12 For just as the body is one and has many parts, and all the parts of that body, though many, are one body—**so also is Christ.** 13 For we were all baptized by one Spirit into one body.*



1. The Beauty of Inter-Dependence

b. Is the INCLUSIVNESS of Christianity.

*13 For we were **all** baptized by one Spirit into one body—whether **Jews or Greeks**, whether **slaves or free**—and we were all given one Spirit to drink.¹⁴ Indeed, the body is not one part but many.*



1. The Beauty of Inter-Dependence

c. Is the DIVERSITY of Christianity.

15 If the **foot** should say, “Because I’m not a **hand**, I don’t belong to the body,” it is not for that reason any less a part of the body. 16 And if the **ear** should say, “Because I’m not an **eye**, I don’t belong to the body,” it is not for that reason any less a part of the body. 17 If the whole body were an eye, where would the hearing be? If the whole body were an ear, where would the sense of smell be?



1. The Beauty of Inter-Dependence

d. Is God's SOVEREIGNTY in Christianity.

*18 But as it is, **God has arranged** each one of the parts in the body just **as he wanted.***

19 And if they were all the same part, where would the body be? 20 As it is, there are many parts, but one body.



2. The Lack of Inter-Dependence

a. Is the attitude of **SELF-SUFFICIENCY** as a Christian.

*21 The eye cannot say to the hand, “**I don’t need you!**” Or again, the head can’t say to the feet, “**I don’t need you!**”*



2. The Lack of Inter-Dependence

b. Is the attitude of SELF-AGGRADIZEMENT as a Christian.

*22 On the contrary, those parts of the body that are weaker are **indispensable**. 23 And those parts of the body that we consider less honorable, we clothe these with **greater honor**, and our unrespectable parts are treated with **greater respect**, 24 which our respectable parts do not need.*



3. The Recovery of Inter-Dependence

a. Is the act of HONORING others in the Body of Christ.

Instead, God has put the body together, **giving greater honor to the less honorable,** 25 so that there would be no division in the body, but that the members would have the same concern for each other.



3. The Recovery of Inter-Dependence.

b. Is the act of CARING for others in the Body of Christ.

*26 So if one member suffers, **all** the members suffer with it; if one member is honored, **all** the members rejoice with it. 27 Now you are the body of Christ, and individual members of it.*



3. The Recovery of Inter-Dependence

c. Is the act of SERVING others with our Spiritual Gifts as the Body of Christ



28 And God has appointed these in the church: first apostles, second prophets, third teachers, next miracles, then gifts of healing, helping, administrating, various kinds of tongues. 29 Are all apostles? Are all prophets? Are all teachers? Do all do miracles? 30 Do all have gifts of healing? Do all speak in other tongues? Do all interpret? 31 But desire the greater gifts. And I will show you an even better way.



1 Corinthians 12:7-11

7To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good. 8For to one is given through the Spirit the **utterance of wisdom**, and to another the **utterance of knowledge** according to the same Spirit, 9to another **faith** by the same Spirit, to another **gifts of healing** by the one Spirit, 10to another the **working of miracles**, to **another prophecy**, to another the **ability to distinguish between spirits**, to another **various kinds of tongues**, to another the **interpretation of tongues**. 11All these are empowered by one and the same Spirit, who apportions to each one individually as he wills.



1 Corinthians 12:30

Do all speak in Tongues???

1 Corinthians 14:39

Therefore, my brothers and sisters, be eager to prophesy, and do not forbid speaking in tongues.



3. The Recovery of Inter-Dependence

a. Is the act of RECEIVING the love of Christ for us, His body.

*31 But desire the greater gifts. And I will show you an even **better way**.... LOVE
(Chapter 13)*