



## ADDRESSING THE ISSUES “Life in the Body” 1 Corinthians 12:1-31

No. 2561

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It seems the Corinthians were abusing their spiritual gifts and disrupting the life of the church. So Paul teaches them about life in the body and how it applies.

### I. Life in the Body Involves Spirituality. vv. 1-3

- A. Pagan spirituality still influenced the Corinthians.
  - 1. “Moved” by dumb idols—demonic possibilities. 10:20
  - 2. Accustomed to extreme behavior—“Jesus is anathema.”
  - 3. Enamored of supernatural gifts—measuring spirituality.
- B. Genuine spirituality is life in the Spirit.
  - 1. Fundamental Christian confession—“Jesus is Lord.”
  - 2. This is only possible through the work of the Holy Spirit.
  - 3. The Spirit is not limited—He works unity in diversity.

### II. Life in the Body Involves Diversity. vv. 4-11

- A. Reflecting the diversity of the Godhead—Father, Son, and Spirit.
  - B. Manifested in the diversity of gifts, ministries and outworkings.
  - C. Directed towards “the common good.” v. 7
  - D. Predicated on the purposes of God—“as He determines.” v. 11
  - E. Demonstrated by gifts to believers and gifts of believers.
    - 1. Gifts to believers for the common good.
      - a. Wisdom.      b. Knowledge.      c. Faith.
      - d. Healings.      e. Miracles.      f. Prophecy.
      - g. Discernment.      h. Tongues.      i. Interpretation.
    - 2. Gifts of believers to the body of Christ. See vv. 27-30
      - a. Apostles.      b. Prophets.      c. Teachers.
      - d. Miracles.      e. Healings.      f. Helps.
      - g. Administrations.      h. Tongues.
- (Note: d-h imply the person but emphasize the gift.)

### III. Life in the Body Involves Unity. vv. 12-24

- A. The unifying experience of all believers. vv. 12-13
  - 1. All different.      2. All baptized in Spirit.      3. All watered by Spirit.
- B. The unifying attitude of all believers. vv. 14-25
  - 1. Acceptance of divinely ordained role in the body. vv. 14-20
  - 2. Appreciation for other members of the body. vv. 21-22
  - 3. Affirmation of less visible members of the body. vv. 23-24

### IV. Life in the Body Involves Mutuality. vv. 25-27

- A. Genuine concern for each other. vv. 25-26
- B. Genuine concept of each other—“Each one is a part of it.”

### V. Life in the Body Involves Ministry. vv. 28-31

- A. It’s not the focus on gifts that is important.
- B. It’s the commitment to ministry in the Spirit that matters.

**Points to Ponder:** What is my concept of the body? What part do I play in it?