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## True Unity in the Body of Christ

What is a parable? Jesus used them often in His teaching. The dictionary defines it as “a simple story used to illustrate a moral or spiritual lesson, as told by Jesus in the Gospels.” Parables have a lot of power to help us understand the Word of God. Jesus tells us to consider the lilies of the field if we are concerned about our clothing in the future. There is a whole seminar in this one picture; if you can see the beauty in this flower, you can see how God desires to clothe us. I’m sure you’ve heard the saying, “One picture is worth a thousand words,” and it is true.

Today I want to discuss a parable used by the Apostle Paul in 1 Corinthians 12:12, “*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.*” Here the image for us as the church is that each of us has a vital role inside the Body of Christ. You don’t need to attend bible school to learn of this, simply close your eyes and picture your own body. How does it work? How many parts are there?

If you have questions about how the church of God is supposed to operate, the answer is found by looking at how your body works. This perfectly explains why we need to work together to do the will of God. In this image, you can walk around inside it, and from every angle, you will only find the truth of the operation of God’s church. You can judge every teaching you have ever heard on the church by this portrait painted by the Holy Spirit.

Here’s a simple demonstration: close your eyes and touch your left to your right hand. It seems easy, but your brain made a thousand calculations just to make this happen. Both hands met together at the same place and the exact same moment. Did you notice that your hands did not communicate with each other, and yet they were in unity? Your right hand independently displayed instructions from your brain, as did your left hand. They say that it takes the unity of 43 muscles just for you to smile, and it takes 200 muscles used in perfect unity to take a single step. Each muscle receives specific instructions and obeys the brain in a perfectly orchestrated movement just to walk. Next time you run up a flight of stairs, watch if you calculate how high each step is or if you trust the brain to do all that for you. Our natural brain is a fantastic organ that the rest of our body relies on for instructions.

Well, this is how much God desires us to be in unity with the Head of our Body, Jesus! Colossians 1:18 reads, “*And He is the head of the body, the church, who is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, that in all things He may have the preeminence.*” Ephesians 1:22-23 says, “*And He put all things under His feet, and gave Him to be head over all things to the church, which is His body, the fullness of Him who fills all in all.*” Although the roles of the fivefold ministries are important, they are only each a part of His Body. None of the callings of the Apostle, Pastor, Teacher, Prophet, and Evangelist are the head; only Jesus is. If you feel inferior to any other person in your calling or relationship with God, then you’ve been taught wrong about the plan of God for the church.

As part of His Body, the lessons from this one parable are innumerable. In this, we can see the importance of communicating with our Head Jesus in everything we do. How does the modern church system fit into this image? We can have multiple corporate-type meetings on unity and never come close to God's heart for His church. The organization of a group of people working together is not the unity God requires for His Body to operate as designed. We steer too many believers into planned campaigns to win the world for God instead of encouraging them to take that time to spend time growing and listening to instructions personally. I think every work any church does is a very good thing; however, there is a higher walk for us that we should also be pursuing! God is pleased with any work a group does to help the world see Jesus, but we should also pursue His best.

God's desire is for His church to walk in the same unity that our own body operates in, and for this to ever come to pass, it will require each of us to know God individually at the same level of intimacy. Look at the prayer Jesus says over us in John 17:20-23, *"I do not pray for these alone, but also for those who will believe in Me through their word; that they all may be one, as You, Father, are in Me, and I in You; that they also may be one in Us, that the world may believe that You sent Me. And the glory which You gave Me I have given them, that they may be one just as We are one: I in them, and You in Me; that they may be made perfect in one, and that the world may know that You have sent Me, and have loved them as You have loved Me."*

This glorious opportunity for you and me will transform our generation and is slipping out of our hands. We only have this life right now to walk into it. Let's dive into the walk of the Spirit like never before. There are no shortcuts for this walk, but we are not alone. As we commit our time to praying in tongues, worship, meditating, and fasting, we will grow together as a body, His Body. The Helper will guide each of us into a beautiful relationship with the plan of God, and when we look up, we will be standing side by side, arm in arm, in perfect unity with Him and each other.

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