

**“We Are the Body”**  
**1 Corinthians 12:27-31**

**I. Believers belong to the Body of Christ (v. 27a)**

- A. The body of Christ is the church.
- B. Christ has purchased the souls that make up the church with His blood.

(Matthew 20:28; 1 Corinthians 6:20; Ephesians 1:22-23; Colossians 1:18, 24; Revelation 5:9)

**II. Believers are members of the body as individuals (v. 27b).**

- A. The decision to follow Christ is an individual decision.
- B. Each believer is given a spiritual gift and a ministry.

(1 Corinthians 12:4-7, 11-12)

**III. Believers are provided the spiritual gifts needed to fulfill their role in the body (v. 28).**

- A. Spiritual gifts are given by God through the Holy Spirit.
- B. Believers cannot take credit for the gifts that they possess.

(1 Corinthians 1:10-12; 3:1-4; 11:18; 12:11; 13:4b-5a)

**IV. Believers are not all given the same task (v. 29-30).**

- A. Believers are individually equipped by God according to His will.
- B. Believers must not become jealous of someone else's gift or ministry.

(1 Corinthians 12:4-11; 13:4a)

**V. Believers must pursue excellence (v. 31).**

- A. Paul exhorts the Corinthians to desire the greater gifts.
  - B. Paul exhorts the Corinthians to pursue the more excellent way.
- (1 Corinthians 12:7, 24-26)

## Scripture References

Colossians 1:18, 24

<sup>18</sup> He is also head of the body, the church; and He is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, so that He Himself will come to have first place in everything.

<sup>24</sup> Now I rejoice in my sufferings for your sake, and in my flesh I do my share on behalf of His body, which is the church, in filling up what is lacking in Christ's afflictions.

Ephesians 1:22-23

<sup>22</sup> And He put all things in subjection under His feet, and gave Him as head over all things to the church,

<sup>23</sup> which is His body, the fullness of Him who fills all in all.

Revelation 5:8-9

<sup>8</sup> When He had taken the book, the four living creatures and the twenty-four elders fell down before the Lamb, each one holding a harp and golden bowls full of incense, which are the prayers of the saints. <sup>9</sup> And they sang a new song, saying, "Worthy are You to take the book and to break its seals; for You were slain, and purchased for God with Your blood *men* from every tribe and tongue and people and nation.

Matthew 20:28

...just as the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life a ransom for many."

1 Corinthians 6:20

For you have been bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body.

1 Corinthians 11:18

For, in the first place, when you come together as a church, I hear that divisions exist among you; and in part I believe it.

1 Corinthians 1:10-12

<sup>10</sup> Now I exhort you, brethren, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that you all agree and that there be no divisions among you, but that you be made complete in the same mind and in the same judgment. <sup>11</sup> For I have been informed concerning you, my brethren, by Chloe's *people*, that there are quarrels among you. <sup>12</sup> Now I mean this, that each one of you is saying, "I am of Paul," and "I of Apollos," and "I of Cephas," and "I of Christ."

1 Corinthians 3:1-4

<sup>1</sup> And I, brethren, could not speak to you as to spiritual men, but as to men of flesh, as to infants in Christ. <sup>2</sup> I gave you milk to drink, not solid food; for you were not yet able to receive it. Indeed, even now you are not yet able, <sup>3</sup> for you are still fleshly. For since there is jealousy and strife among you, are you not fleshly, and are you not walking like mere men? <sup>4</sup> For when one says, "I am of Paul," and another, "I am of Apollos," are you not *mere* men?

1 Corinthians 13:4b-5a

<sup>4</sup> ...love does not brag and is not arrogant, <sup>5</sup> does not act unbecomingly; it does not seek its own...

1 Corinthians 13:4a

Love is patient, love is kind and is not jealous...