

Summit Woods Baptist Church
First Corinthians Sermon Study Equipping Class

1 Corinthians 12:12-13

❖ Day 1

Read 1 Corinthians 12:12-13.

For these lessons, the sermon text is provided in a format that visually helps display the structure of the paragraph or section of text. The main verbs are underlined. Generally, the main indicative clauses remain to the left, and the supporting clauses are either directly underneath when they have equal priority to what comes before, or are tabbed to the right when the clause supports, develops, or draws a conclusion from a neighboring clause.

¹²For just as the body is one
and has many members,
and all the members of the body, though many, are one body,
so it is with Christ.

¹³For in one Spirit we were all baptized into one body—Jews or Greeks, slaves or free—
and all were made to drink of one Spirit.

1. In verse 12, what kind of body is Paul talking about?

2. In verse 12, what does Paul claim is true about a body?

3. Paul makes two similar statements about the body and its members.
 - a. In both statements, what adjective describes *body* and what adjective describes *members*?

 - b. In the first statement, which is listed first, the body or its members?

 - c. In the second statement, which is listed first?

 - d. Though the descriptors for each noun are the same in both phrases, the reversed order of the statements reveals that Paul is emphasizing two things. What is Paul trying to correct in the Corinthians thinking with these two parallel emphases?

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❖ Day 2

Read 1 Corinthians 12:12-13 again.

4. With what does Paul ultimately compare the body and its members in verse 12?

5. In what way does Christ have many members?

6. The 'for' at the beginning of verse 13 tells us that verse 13 is the ground for the statement in verse 12. According to verse 13, how did the many members of Christ become one body?

7. When we studied 1 Corinthians 10 last fall, we discussed how being baptized into something/someone is a means of identifying oneself completely with that thing/person. How should this have impacted the Corinthian believers?

8. How thorough is the uniting of believers in Christ by the Spirit, and how does Paul emphasize this in verse 13? What makes those named people so different from a human standpoint?

9. Based on our own cultural circumstances, what other "this-or-that"s might we use today to make a similar emphasis on the differences that the gospel overcomes?

❖ Day 3

Read 1 Corinthians 12:12-13 again.

10. We are only looking at verses 12-13 this week, but where does Paul finish with his comparison to a physical body?

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11. The 'for' at the beginning of verse 12 connects these verses to the preceding paragraph's idea and indicates that the current idea is the ground upon which the preceding conclusion rests. How does Paul's teaching in 12:4-7 also display both *one* and *many*?

12. At the end of verse 12, did you expect Paul to say "so it is with *the church*" rather than "so it is with *Christ*"? What is the significance of comparing the body with *Christ* instead of *the church* in verse 12?

13. How does this lesson impact your understanding of the church?

In preparation for Sunday, pray that we would recognize our unity with each other in Christ and that we would rejoice in it and live accordingly.