

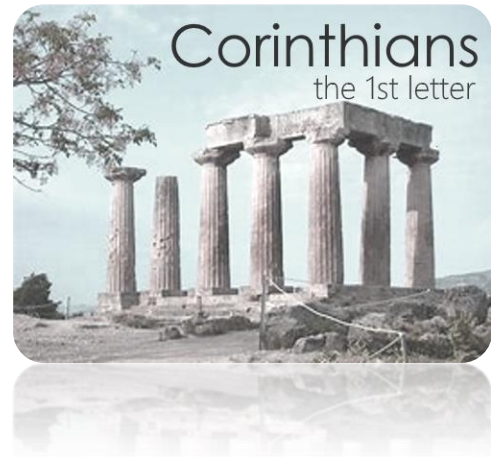
1 CORINTHIANS 12 vs 1

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C.S. Lewis points out just how different membership is in the superficial new world; which is so different to the individual members **in the Church the Lord is building**. **In the world**, the individual is reeducated to conform in dress, in talk, in thought; in the world, membership means: we all look alike.

In: **Membership** CS Lewis wrote: The society into which the Christian is called at baptism is not a collective but a Body. It is in fact that Body of which the family is an image on the natural level. If anyone came to it with the fallacy that membership of the Church was membership in a debased modern sense -- gathering together people as if they were pennies or counters -- he would be corrected at the threshold by the discovery that the head of this Body is so unlike the inferior members that they share no predicate with Him except by analogy. We are summoned from the start to combine as creatures with our Creator, as mortals with immortal, as redeemed sinners with sinless Redeemer /C.S. Lewis, 1945.



In the Church Jesus is building, Paul tells us: JESUS is the head! And Membership in His Church means: we all will look different from each other, yet we all have a vital part to function in His body. Pay attention to: what is same; and what is different. Paul knows those words, and so does the Spirit of the Lord who inspired him. Notice there are NO age requirements; NO gender requirements; NO ethnicity requirements to be members of this great school of higher learning; a unity-in-diversity where our great Teacher calls His disciples -- those doing the math... to learn and show ourselves approved to God.

¹Now about spiritual gifts, brothers and sisters, I would **not have you ignorant.**

²You know you were Gentiles, led astray by these speechless idols.

³Therefore, I want you to know, that no one speaking through by the Spirit of God can say, **"Jesus is cursed": and no one can say **"Jesus is Lord"**, but by the Holy Spirit.**

⁴Now there are **different gifts / all given by God, but the **same** Spirit.**

⁵And there are **different administrations / ways of serving, but the **same** Lord.**

⁶And there are **different operations / activities and jobs needing to be done, but it is the **same** God / our Father in heaven... who works all in all.**

⁷A display of the Spirit** is given to each person to benefit all / for the common good of all.**

⁸For to one is given **by the Spirit a message of wisdom; to another a message of knowledge by the **same** Spirit;**

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⁹To another faith by the **same** Spirit; to another the gifts of healing by the **same** Spirit;

¹⁰To another **working miracles**; to another **prophecy**; to another **discerning spirits**; to another **different languages**; to another **interpreting languages**:

¹¹**But the One--same Spirit** is active in all these, giving each person separately as He will.

¹²For just as the body is **one**, and has many parts / melos = part, member limb, and all the members of that **one** body, being many, are **one** body: so also is Christ / the Messiah.

¹³For we are all baptized into one body, **by one Spirit**, whether Jews or Greeks, whether slaves or free; and we were all given to drink of one Spirit.

¹⁴For the body / of Christ... is not one member, but many.

¹⁵If the foot says, Because I am not a hand, I am not part of the body; is that so?

¹⁶And if the ear says, Because I am not an eye, I am not part of the body; is that so?

¹⁷If the whole body was an eye, how would it hear? If the whole body was an ear, how would it smell?

And here is a key point Paul makes...

 ¹⁸But now God arranged the members each one of them in the body, as He wanted.

¹⁹And if they all were one member, where is the body? / said a little different: one big toe... or one big whatever... does not make a body!

²⁰But as it is, there are many members, yet **one** body.

²¹**The eye cannot say to the hand, I have no need of you:**

Or again the head can't say to the feet, I have no need of you.

²²No, on the contrary those members of the body that are weaker are necessary:

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23 And those _____ / the unmentionable parts... of the body, which we think to be less honorable, upon these we bestow 'more abundant' honor / perissoteros; super-abundant honor;

and our indecorous parts have greater honor / our private parts, have super-abundant charm.

24 For our decorous parts / our presentable parts; have no special need: but God put them together, giving abundantly more honor to the inferior parts.

Okay, we get the point, the body has many necessary parts...

We do not possess the proper materials to work through these 2 verses and discover what Paul actually said; so we will come back to the website and update... as time permits.

25 That there should be no division in the one body of Christ; but that the members should have the **same care one for another / which is what Jesus said, the night He was betrayed: they will know we are His disciples, [if we have love one for another](#).**

26 And if one member suffers, all the members suffer; or if one member is honored, all the members rejoice.

27 Now you are the body of Christ, and members in particular.

28 And God has set some in the church, first apostles / the first ones sent – were 12 original disciples; then He sent 72 additional that brought Him great joy! emblematic of the church He is building; He taught them, and then sent them, second prophets, third teachers, after that miracles, then gift of healing, helping, administrating, various tongues.

29 me pas apostolos – not all apostles

me pas prophetes – not all prophets

me pas didaskalos – not all teachers

me pas dunamis – not all miracle-workers

30 me echidna pas charisma – not all gifts of healing

me pas laleo glossa – not all speak different languages

me pas diermeneuo – not all interpret

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Here is a curious reality that might unravel one of the grand traditions of the church. Notice, Paul... inspired by the Holy Spirit... makes NO mention of **pastors**; in this list, they are excluded. The word translated 18 of the 19 times in the New Testament for: **shepherd**... is **poimen**. Only once it refers to those in the Church Jesus said He is building.

The other times it refers to Jesus Christ himself who said: **I AM the good Shepherd! – the Good Pastor**. In the resurrection, 3 times... [Jesus told Peter: Feed My sheep!](#) And I don't think He meant: feed them junk food! The sheep belong to Jesus; they have always belonged to Him, and to nobody else! so clear, that even the blind can see! [Ezekiel 34 spells that out perfectly clear](#)...

³¹ But desire the greater gifts.

And yet I will show you a more excellent way.

[Salvation is Your Name](#)

[This is My Father's World](#)

Check out: Our Brothers and Sisters Around The World Singing GOD'S Praise:  **The Songlist**

[Fibonacci in Nature; The Code of Life](#) | [We Came From Where?](#)

[You Can Depend On Jesus](#) | [The Spirit and the Bride Say Come](#)

[I Could Sing of Your Love Forever](#) | [His Sheep Hear His Voice And Follow Him](#)