

TOGETHER

DESIGNED FOR RELATIONSHIP & COMMUNITY

MESSAGE: CHARLIE MENG

MUSIC: DAN GILLETTE, CARA STEWART

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United, But Diverse
1 Corinthians 12:12-20

Review:

1. God equips His people to influence others.

1Cor. 12:7 *To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good.*

2. The Spirit oversees the entire process.

1Cor. 12:11 *All these are empowered by one and the same Spirit, who apports to each one individually as he wills.*

The Spirit immerses each believer into Christ and unites us to one another. (12-13).

1. All believers belong to the body of Christ (12).

1Cor. 12:12 *For 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.*

2. All believers share a common immersion and are indwelt by the same Spirit (13).

1Cor. 12:13 *For 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.*

Spirit Baptism provides for our:

1. Freedom/Life

Rom. 6:4 *We were buried therefore with him by baptism into death, in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might walk in newness of life. 5* *For if we have been united with him in a death like his, we shall certainly be united with him in a resurrection like his.*

2. Unification

Eph. 4:4 *There is one body and one Spirit—just as you were called to the one hope that belongs to your call— 5* *one Lord, one faith, one baptism, 6* *one God and Father of all, who is over all and through all and in all.*

Having been united, each believer functions distinctly within the whole (14-20).

1. The church is diverse.

1Cor. 12:14 *For the body does not consist of one member but of many.*

2. The needs of the church demand diversity of gifting.

1Cor. 12:15 *If the foot should say, "Because I am not a hand, I do not belong to the body," that would not make it any less a part of the body. 16 And if the ear should say, "Because I am not an eye, I do not belong to the body," that would not make it any less a part of the body. 17 If the whole body were an eye, where would be the sense of hearing? If the whole body were an ear, where would be the sense of smell?*

3. In fact, diversity is part of God's design and is essential to the church's function.

1Cor. 12:18 *But as it is, God arranged the members in the body, each one of them, as he chose. 19 If all were a single member, where would the body be? 20 As it is, there are many parts, yet one body.*

Discussion & Reflection Questions:

1. Reflect on what took place when you first trusted Jesus. What did your experience with the church look like?
2. How have you experienced unity within the context of the church? Why is it important to consider this unity as a "done deal"?
3. How have you seen, or benefited from, diversity being expressed in the church? Take a moment to marvel at how God has "arranged the members in the body."
4. Do you recognize yourself (and what you bring to the table) as essential to the health of Valley Bible Church? How has God gifted you to be of benefit to others?
5. In what new ways have you been exercising your gift in the context of our immediate circumstances? What are some new ideas you might implement?

SONGS

"Grateful" - Stefan Green, Chris Brown, Matthew Ntlele, Steven Furtick

"Together In This Fight" - Valley Bible Worship

"Who You Say I Am" - Anthony Brown, Pat Barrett

"Great Are You Lord" - David Leonard, Jason Ingram, Leslie Jordan

BUDGET

GIVING LAST WEEK: \$35,712.00
WEEKLY NEED: \$34,979.00

YTD GIVING: \$1,219,607.00
YTD GENERAL NEED: \$1,259,244.00