

How the Body Works

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I. Introduction.

A. Text: I Corinthians 12:12-26.

B. This is the only place where the Baptism of the Holy Spirit is explained.

II. The Body of Christ is important to Christ.

A. Christ is part of the body of Christ.

B. This means that we are a part of Christ—we constitute the means by which He functions in the world.

III. We all get into the Body of Christ through the Baptism of the Spirit.

A. All Christians who have been born again have been Baptized by the Spirit.

B. We were all indwelt by the Holy Spirit when we were Baptized by Him.

C. Above all things, the Spirit was meant to reveal the things of Jesus.

1. This is our relationship with Jesus.

2. We are in Christ, and He is in us in the mystery and marvel of the church.

IV. The Body addresses the wrong feeling of insignificance.

A. If you think of yourself as less a part of the Body because you lack a gift you are deceiving yourself.

B. There are no insignificant members of the Body.

C. This arises because often people only think that the church is supposed to be a great meeting.

D. However, the work of the church is to heal, encourage, strengthen, help and especially deliver from the misery of sin.

E. If there are only a few jobs in the work of the church, what a terrible distortion the Body is.

V. The Body addresses the problem of the independent spirit.

A. Many in congregations think they can get along without the Body, which creates a sense of rivalry.

B. All the members of the body are essential for each other.

C. When one begins to understand the Body of Christ as it is meant, everyone will be seen with the same importance.

D. The Body is exquisite in how it functions—we are all affected by it.

E. In the Body, we are concerned for one another.

F. No one has all the gifts—we need each other.

G. We ought to be more concerned about the fruit of the Spirit instead of the gifts of the Spirit.

Application questions:

1. Explain the Baptism of the Holy Spirit. How does Scripture teach this?

2. Why is it wrong to look at one part of the Body as less than another part?

3. How does the Body address the problem of the independent Spirit? Why is this so unnatural for us?
