

# Concerning Spiritual Gifts: One Baptism—One Body

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## I. Introduction.

- A. Text: 1 Corinthians 12:12-31.
- B. Nobody in the body of Christ is inferior. Everyone has a gift.
- C. We all have a place to fill in the body.

## II. The picture: the church is a body.

- A. The body of Christ is Christ on earth.
- B. The church is compared to a body because it is a living organism, it grows and it serves. (Ephesians 5:26)
- C. In the human body we have diversity in unity.

## III. The process: the Spirit baptizes members into the body.

- A. The body is formed by baptism.
- B. We are never told to seek a baptism.
- C. Baptism has a figurative and a literal meaning. It literally means submerge. It figuratively means to identify with.
- D. The baptism of the Spirit is experienced by every believer. It means that Christ belongs to us. The filling of the Spirit happens more than once, and it means that we belong to him.
- E. It is possible to use spiritual gifts in a carnal way. Gifted people can cause trouble in the church.

## IV. The privileges: the relationships we have as Christians.

- A. We belong to each other. Beware of the independent Christian. God puts us in the body as he pleases.
- B. We need each other.
- C. We affect each other. If we affect each other, we should care for each other.

## V. How it works.

- A. Each member has to accept itself.
- B. Each member has to be itself.
- C. Each member has to give itself.
- D. When the body functions, God gets the glory.

## **Application questions:**

1. What does the picture of the body do to affirm every person's place in the church? Explain.

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2. How would you differentiate the baptism of the Spirit and the filling of the Spirit.

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3. Which privilege of being part of the body stands out to you? How does this challenge your towards greater unity personally? Explain.

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