

The Royal Route to Heaven

1 Corinthians Chapter 12

In the body of Christ there is diversity in unity and in Chapter 12 Paul speaks of various spiritual gifts and ministries which operate for the benefit of all, part of our equipping as we walk the “Royal Route”. We also find here a wonderful description of how the many members of the one body are to work together in unity, as we will see the importance of each individual member and their interdependence on one another.

Pray that as you do this study you will have a renewed understanding of the body of Christ and your unique place in it.

Key Word(s)

Read through the entire chapter, looking for words or themes that are repeated. You might want to underline them in your Bible.

1. A word we find that is used several times is “gifts”.

a. How many times did you find this word?

b. Write a definition below.

2. A word found more often in this chapter than any other in 1 Corinthians is “body”.

a. How many times did you find this word?

b. Write a definition below.

3. Make note of any other words that are repeated or that you feel are significant here and include a definition.

Read 1 Corinthians 12:1-11.

1. Chapter 12 begins with these words: *“Now concerning spiritual gifts, brethren, I do not want you to be ignorant.”*

a. What does it mean to be ignorant of something?

b. From verse 2, why would the Corinthians be ignorant of spiritual gifts?

2. In verse 3, Paul gave the believers a simple guideline they could use to tell if something was of the Spirit of God or not. Write those guidelines below.

3. Reflect on the declaration “Jesus is Lord”. What does this mean to you today?

4. We have already mentioned that this chapter is about diversity in unity. Complete the following chart from 1 Corinthians 12:4-6 to begin our focus on this.

Verse	<i>There are...</i>	<i>but...</i>
4		
5		
6		

5. Verse 7 begins with the words *“But the manifestation of the Spirit is given...”*

a. What does “manifestation” mean?

b. To whom are the *“manifestations of the Spirit”* given?

c. Why?

6. Nine spiritual gifts are listed in 1 Corinthians 12:8-10. List these below.

- | | |
|----|----|
| 1. | 6. |
| 2. | 7. |
| 3. | 8. |
| 4. | 9. |
| 5. | |

7. Verse 11 reiterates the unity saying, “*But one and the same Spirit works all these things*”.

a. How are these gifts distributed?

b. What does Ephesians 4:11-13 add to our understanding of why these gifts are distributed in the body?

Read 1 Corinthians 12:12-27.

This section of the letter describes the body of Christ, something all Christians need to understand in order to grasp their place in the body.

1. There is clearly a truth that Paul wants the Corinthians to grasp, as he repeats it four times in slightly different ways. Read each of the following verses and write what they say about the body.

a. 1 Corinthians 12:12

b. 1 Corinthians 12:13

c. 1 Corinthians 12:14

d. 1 Corinthians 12:20

e. 1 Corinthians 12:27

2. 1 Corinthians 12:13 lists some of the diverse backgrounds of the people who were now Christians in the Corinthian church.

a. Can you think of other diversities in our churches today?

b. How were all these brought into one body?

3. Paul gives a good picture of the parts of the body and their importance in 1 Corinthians 12:15-17. Read these verses and explain what you think Paul is saying here.

4. What does Romans 12:3-5 add to this picture?

5. We may not be able to pinpoint the exact place we have in the body from Paul's description, but we can take great comfort in 1 Corinthians 12:18. How has God placed us (each member) in the body?

6. We know that God does all things perfectly, so we can trust Him with His placement of each of us in the body. The Lord tells us, through the words of Paul, how and why He places each member of the body.

a. What does verse 24 say about **how** God composed the body, or put it together?

b. What does verse 25 say about **why** He did it this way?

c. Write the further description of how the body is connected from verse 26.

7. God designed the body of Christ to work together in the way we have seen in this chapter.

a. If we operate in the body the way God designed it, what does John 13:35 say will be one result?

b. Can you think of any other results of the body working together as the Lord designed it?

8. What more do you find about the body of Christ and how we should walk in it in Ephesians 4:1-6?

Read 1 Corinthians 12:28-31.

1. In verse 28 are listed more specific ministries and gifts of the Spirit. List them here.

2. 1 Corinthians 12:29-30 contains seven questions about the ministries and gifts, each including the word “*all*”. These are rhetorical questions, as we know the answer to each one is no. What point do you think Paul is making here?

3. The last verse of this chapter leads into the next chapter.

a. Write out verse 31 below.

b. Why would you say we are to desire the gifts of the Spirit?

In closing...

We have talked this week about the unity in the body with the individuality of the members.

1. How would you explain the “diversity in unity” in the body of Christ?

2. We have seen that the gifts of the Spirit are given as the Lord wills and we are to desire them for the body of Christ.

a. Romans 12:6-8 tells us more about the gifts and ministries of the Spirit. List the gifts and ministries given in these verses, along with how we are to use them.

b. Consider 1 Peter 4:10: *“As each one has received a gift, minister it to one another, as good stewards of the manifold grace of God.”* What further instruction on the use of the gifts do you see in this verse?