

# One Body with Many Members

Մէկ Մարմնի Մէջ Շատ Անդամներ

Romans 12:1-8

There was a musician in the orchestra who loved the oboe very much. So he rearranged a famous musical piece for oboes only. Imagine a full orchestra of oboes. Only although the oboe is a beautiful musical instrument, yet this was a terribly bad arrangement.

**One Body with Many Members.** Let us go to our passage:

Romans 12

Let me summarize last Sunday:

Our passage starts with the word, **therefore**.

For 11 chapters Paul spoke about **God's mercy**. God's mercy for undeserving sinners,

**Therefore, I urge you, brothers and sisters, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God—this is your true and proper worship.** (Romans 12:1 NIV)

**Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is—his good, pleasing and perfect will.** (Romans 12:2 NIV)

**For by the grace given me I say to every one of you: Do not think of yourself more highly than you ought, but rather think of yourself with sober judgment, in accordance with the faith God has distributed to each of you.** (Romans 12:3 NIV)

- Living Sacrifice, surrendering our old life so that God gives us new life...
- Not to conform but be transformed into CHRISTLIKENESS...
- We should be careful not to think of ourselves more highly than we ought to....
- Having a Sober Judgment...

Paul goes further how each of us are uniquely made:

**For just as each of us has one body with many members, and these members do not all have the same function,<sup>5</sup> so in Christ we, though many, form one body, and each member belongs to all the others.** (Romans 12:4,5 NIV)

Paul is a great writer and a teacher who brings forth **the ONE BODY** image by using the analogy of the **HUMAN BODY**. (1 Corinthians 12)

**Example:** I love PACC building.

But if you want to look to our church, don't look to the building, stand in front of the mirror, and look at yourself. You are one body with different parts in your body. Then think this way: you belong to the larger body of Christ, which is the church. You are one of the members of this body.

**so in Christ we, though many, form one body, and each member belongs to all the others.**

Do you see a very important point here?

WE BELONG TO EACH OTHER.... **each member belongs to all the others.**

**For Example:** -Let me tell you how I feel when one of you decide to leave this church family, the body of Christ.

We belong to each other; we make an oath to serve TOGETHER. We are a family. When you decide to leave, we lost a body part in the family.

How do you feel when your daughter, son, or wife says. "I found another family"? When one leaves the church, it is like we cut one of the body parts, a hand, a finger.... That hurts, and we will lose that part (eye, finger, hand...) from the body.

**-God granted us Spiritual Gifts.**

**<sup>6</sup> We have different gifts, according to the grace given to each of us. If your gift is prophesying, then prophesy in accordance with your faith; <sup>7</sup> if it is serving, then serve; if it is teaching, then teach; <sup>8</sup> if it is to encourage (exhort), then give encouragement; if it is giving (contributes) , then give generously; if it is to lead, do it diligently (zeal); if it is to show mercy, do it cheerfully. (Romans 12:6-8 NIV)**

Each of us are unique, and each of us have certain gifts. The word for **gift** in Greek is *Charisma*, which comes from root word of *Charis* which means **grace**. **So it is an UNDESERVED, unmerited gift given by God.**

-It is important to understand that Paul is not referring to natural talents, like athletic or musical abilities. All of us, whether we are believers or not, have those natural abilities, **but spiritual gifts are given by the Holy Spirit only to those who belong to the body of Christ.**

Here is another definition by Gene Wilkes

**A spiritual gift is an expression of the Holy Spirit in the life of believers which empowers them to serve the body of Christ, the church.**

-Having said that, I wish we had one gift and we will not be jealous, or argue whose gift is more important and so on. The purpose of the gifts is to build the body, the unity of the body.

What are those gifts?

In the bible there are several passages that list spiritual gifts: Romans 12:6-8; 1 Corinthians 12:8-10, 28-30; Ephesians 4:11; 1 Peter 4:9-11.

Someone defined the spiritual gift like this:

**A spiritual gift is a “God-given assignment, capacity, and desire to perform a function within the body of Christ with supernatural joy, energy, and effectiveness.”**

In today’s passage we have seven gifts mentioned:

- Prophecy
- Serving
- Teaching
- Encouraging (exhortation)
- Giving (contribution)
- Leading (administration)
- Mercy<sup>1</sup>

### **PROPHECY** Մարգարեություն

The goal of those who have the gift of prophecy is to bring persons face to face with God.

In the OT prophets received divine message from God and delivered them to the people. Also, they took the cries and complaints of the people and passed them to God. The prophets warned the people about God’s judgment. They prophesied about the coming judgments of God.

This is a dangerous gift and people misused it so badly. We need to discern the voice of God. There have been many false prophets in church history. In the year 2000 many false prophets said that Jesus was coming back on that day, for example.

Paul exhorts the church in Corinth to **test or judge the words of prophets in the church.**

Paul says “**prophecy in accordance with your faith;**” *or in agreement with the faith.* That is, the prophet is to make sure that his message does not in any way disagree or differ from the Christian faith.

**SERVING** սպասաւորութիւն

*Diaconia*, the word “deacon” comes from this gift.

This is an unseen gift. The person who serves, does it silently. These people are good in finding out the needs of the people, and they reach out and bless them. Those needs can be emotional, physical, or practical (giving a ride)... you name it. Our church has 8 elected deacons. Yet all the deacons who served before are active and try to support the church. Romans 12:10 – “Be devoted, honor one another.”

**TEACHING** սորվեցնել

Not everyone is called to be a teacher. Teaching is the ability to make the Scriptures understandable and clear. The purpose is to build up, edify, and unify the body.

This is gift helps the church to go deeper in the WORD of God and not to drift. Romans 12:11 – “Keep spiritual fervor.”

**ENCOURAGING (Exhortation)** յորդորել

I wish we had many who have the gift of encouragement.

What does it mean: Someone who walks with you, understands you, encourages you, comforts you, counsels you, exhorts you.

It can be done privately, publicly, by texting, by calling, or visiting...

I know people in this church who send cards. Cards for birthdays, for sympathy, for graduation, or they find a reason to send a card.

Barnabas is a good example in the Bible. His name means the encourager.

Brothers and sisters, I have had people in my life who have used this gift toward me. It is amazing what God can do through us.

Romans 12:12 – “Joyful, patient and faithful.”

**GIVING (contribution)** բաշխել

**if it is giving (contributes) , then give generously**

When we give, we should give cheerfully, not the leftovers, but the first of the crop.

Some do have the gift of giving. This means they give without hesitation, simply give and generously give. Don't seek attention, give silently. Don't make it a big deal. Give without strings attached....

You don't need to be rich to have this gift. Romans 12:13 – “Share with God's people.”

### **LEAD (Administration) վերակացու ըլլալ**

#### **if it is to lead, do it diligently (zeal)**

If you are a leader, then lead diligently, with ZEAL.

The word in Greek means someone who “**stands before others.**”

Some call it the gift of administration. Paul says the leader should lead not as duty, but diligently, with ZEAL.

Good leaders know how to lead the group and organize the group tasks

They lead in a way that people can work harmoniously to reach their goals for God's purpose.

They are good in setting guidelines, schedules, and policies; and can delegate to get the work done.

### **MERCY նորորմիլ**

#### **if it is to show mercy, do it cheerfully.**

The people who have this gift feel compassion for those who are suffering, and perform deeds to reflect God's love.

They express compassion, they show loving action, and lift up the ones who are hurting. Those with this gift have hearts filled with mercy for the weak, the helpless, the poor, the sick, the handicapped.

Romans 12:15-16 – “Rejoice with those who rejoice, mourn with mourners, live in harmony.”

If you don't know your gift, there is test you can take (There are tests in the back or on our website).(Bellow you have the link)<sup>2</sup>

Let me give you an example someone from the church told me:

Several years ago, I was at the place in my life where I volunteered at every opportunity to serve the Lord. One day as I read Romans 12: 6-8, something

jumped at me. I realized I was pretending to have all the gifts and trying to exercise all of them at the same time.

I was planning and directing Sunday School (administration), I was giving Biblical messages (teaching), I was working in the church kitchen (service), I was paying visits to the sick (mercy) and making phone calls to encourage people (exhortation), I was hosting countless people in our home (hospitality) etc.

I realized I was taking over responsibilities which were not in accordance with my gifts, and I was definitely on the verge of burnout.

It was time to wake up, find out the gifts God had given me, and use them the way He intended them.

So please if you don't know your gift, take the test.

All those gifts are given to build the body of Christ, and not to cause division. Paul talks in detail in 1 Corinthians how the misuse of the gift can divide the church and lose the harmony in the church.

God gave verity of the gifts so that humbly we should work together; we are interdependent to serve and to be served; this should lead us to unity within diversity; it is difficult but it is good challenge to be ONE BODY in CHRIST.

Let our gifts glorify God, in serving, teaching, caring, preaching, giving, loving...  
Let us approach to the table

1 inventory can be found in workbook: Discovering Our Place in God's World and in Development of Church Officers in the Cumberland Presbyterian Church by Chris Joiner)  
[https://www.flumc.org/files/fileslibrary/congregational+vitality/discipling/spiritual\\_gifts\\_inventory+short.pdf](https://www.flumc.org/files/fileslibrary/congregational+vitality/discipling/spiritual_gifts_inventory+short.pdf)

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