

w/b 6th December 2016 Study questions for small groups (Dave Webb-Peploe)

THE GLORIOUS BODY OF CHRIST

PASSAGE: 1 CORINTHIANS 12 vs 1-20

INTRODUCTION

One of the pictures that the bible uses to describe the church is that of a physical human body. Paul's masterful use of this particular picture and his accompanying comments provide a shed load of insights into church life that we need to process through carefully.

PASSAGE

12 Now concerning spiritual *gifts*, brethren, I do not want you to be unaware.²You know that when you were pagans, *you were* led astray to the mute idols, however you were led. ³Therefore I make known to you that no one speaking by the Spirit of God says, "Jesus is accursed"; and no one can say, "Jesus is Lord," except by the Holy Spirit.

⁴Now there are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit. ⁵And there are varieties of ministries, and the same Lord. ⁶There are varieties of effects, but the same God who works all things in all *persons*. ⁷But to each one is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good. ⁸For to one is given the word of wisdom through the Spirit, and to another the word of knowledge according to the same Spirit; ⁹to another faith by the same Spirit, and to another gifts of healing by the one Spirit, ¹⁰and to another the effecting of miracles, and to another prophecy, and to another the distinguishing of spirits, to another *various* kinds of tongues, and to another the interpretation of tongues.¹¹ But one and the same Spirit works all these things, distributing to each one individually just as He wills.

¹²For even as the body is one and *yet* has many members, and all the members of the body, though they are many, are one body, so also is Christ.¹³For ¹⁴by one Spirit we were all baptized into one body, whether Jews or Greeks, whether slaves or free, and we were all made to drink of one Spirit.

¹⁴For the body is not one member, but many. ¹⁵If the foot says, "Because I am not a hand, I am not *a part* of the body," it is not for this reason any the less a *part* of the body. ¹⁶And if the ear says, "Because I am not an eye, I am not *a part* of the body," it is not for this reason any the less a *part* of the body. ¹⁷If the whole body were an eye, where would the hearing be? If the whole were hearing, where would the sense of smell be? ¹⁸But now God has placed the members, each one of them, in the body, just as He desired. ¹⁹If they were all one member, where would the body be? ²⁰But now there are many members, but one body.

LAUNCH

Remember a club, association or group (not church based) where you felt particularly at home or comfortable. What was it about that group that made it so good?

DISCOVERY & UNDERSTANDING

According to what Paul says in 12:1-11 what is the point of spiritual gifts?

Paul emphasizes that the source of Spiritual gifts is the Spirit. What is he then implying is not the source and why is that important?

When you think of yourself as a member (as in the body part) of Christ himself, what thoughts spring to mind?

How does thinking of other Christians as 'members' of the body of Christ affect the way you see them?

What sort of parts can the church be tempted to think of as being more important than others and why do you think this is?

What parts are considered less important & in what ways might they be absolutely vital to the local church?

APPLICATION

Spend some time praying for real unity in the church so that the genuine power of God may be exhibited (as per the AW Tozer quote on Sunday)

- *Thanks to Tom Wright study guide on 1 Corinthians for many of the questions.*