

1 Corinthians 12-14
Unity in Diversity: the Church and Spiritual Gifts
1 Corinthians 12:1-30 (page 799)

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The Test of Holy Spirit Control (1 Cor 12:1-3; 14:33)

Point: The Holy Spirit will always honor Jesus and point people to Him (John 16:13-15; Matt 7:22-23)

There is Unity in Diversity:

- within the Godhead (1 Cor 12:4-6; 3:6-9)

Point: The variety of spiritual gifts are empowered by the one God and exercised under His guidance.

- within the Spiritual Gifts (1 Cor 12:7-11; 1 Peter 4:10)

Point: The Holy Spirit gives gifts to each believer as He determines for the common good of the church.

- within the Church (1 Cor 12:12-14)

Point: The church is a unity that is made up of diverse parts.

The application of the *analogy/imagery* (1 Cor 12:15-26)

Diversity in the church serves to eliminate:

- feelings of uselessness (vs 15-20)
- feelings of superiority (vs 21-26)

Point: God has placed each member in the body so that each part serves the whole body.

The truth of *diversity reaffirmed* (1 Cor 12:27-31)

Point: Everyone in the body does not exercise the same gift.

Summary Thoughts:

1. The Holy Spirit will not cause confusion but always honor and point people to Jesus in manifesting His influence.
2. The gifts are exercised under the guidance and power of the Holy Spirit in unity with the Godhead.
3. We don't determine our gift(s), they are determined by the Holy Spirit so that the whole church may benefit.
4. The church is a unity (one body) made up of diverse parts (many members).
5. God has sovereignly placed us in the body so that we can care for each other as He has designed us.
6. Everyone does not possess the same spiritual gift.