

## THE BODY OF CHRIST

In January, we will study the four following lessons on Spiritual Gifts during the second service.

- |                |                           |                       |
|----------------|---------------------------|-----------------------|
| • <b>Jan.6</b> | <b>The Body of Christ</b> | <b>1 Cor.12:12-27</b> |
| • Jan.13       | Misunderstandings         | 1 Cor.12:12-27        |
| • Jan.20       | Temporary Gifts           | 1 Cor.13:8-10         |
| • Jan.27       | Permanent Gifts           | Rom.12:3-8            |

In the church age, the ministry of the local church consists of spiritual gifted Believers. In our lesson text, Paul compared spiritual gifts to the anatomy of the human body: “For 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.” (1 Cor.12:12)

Paul is saying that the internal functioning of spiritual gifts gives the local church a unified body and dynamic ministries of Jesus Christ: “Now there are varieties of gifts, but the **same Spirit**. And there are varieties of ministries, and the **same Lord**. And there are varieties of effects, but the **same God** who works all things in all persons. But to each one is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good.” (1 Cor.12:4-7)

Because of spiritual gifts (pneumatik~~os~~ / belonging to Holy Spirit and charis~~ma~~ / results of grace) (1 Cor.12:1), the composition of the Christian church is the same everywhere in the world. This makes the church of Jesus Christ **supranational** rather than national or international (Eph.2:19-22).

**This lesson will study five aspects of Spiritual Gifts Composing the Body of Christ, the Church.**

- 1. Every church age Believer becomes a member of the universal church in heaven and on earth at the moment of salvation by the baptism of the Holy Spirit.**  
(1 Cor.12:13; Gal.3:27; Matt.3:11; Acts 1:5; 2:33; 1 Thess4:17).
- 2. Every church age believer has a spiritual gifted ministry in the local church by the indwelling ministry of the Holy Spirit (1 Cor.12:21, 27; Heb.10:25; 1 Cor.6:19-20; 12:11-14).**  
There are no unspiritual gifted Believers in a local church (1 Cor.12). And there are no mono-gifted spiritual mature churches. But there are multi-gifted ones (Rom.12:4-5; 1 Cor.12:29-30).
- 3. The part, placement, and performance of each spiritual gift is according to the master plan of the grace of God (1 Cor.12:4-7, 18-19, 24-28; Eph.4:4-6).**  
Each spiritual gifted member is vital to the unity and ministry of that local church (1 Cor.12:12; Rom.12:4-5).
- 4. The performance of each spiritual gift is by the filling ministry of indwelling Holy Spirit (Eph.5:18; Gal.5:16-17; 1 Cor.12:4-6, 11).**  
The spiritual gift is the Believer’s nomenclature of his primary ministry in and through the local church (1 Cor.12:12-27).
- 5. Spiritual gifts determine the diversity of ministries in a local church (1 Cor.12:4-7).**  
Spiritual gifts are the dynamics of the program of a local church (1 Cor.12:7; 14:3-4, 12, 26; Eph.4:11-13, 16).  
Spiritual gifts are specialized ministries for the edification of the local body of Christ (1 Cor.12:25-27).