

I. Introduction: “Comparison” and “Division” that easily arise in the church

- The human body lives as one because many different parts work together.
- In the church as well, we tend to compare ourselves with others and fall into:
 - an inferiority complex: “I’m not useful,”
 - criticism/superiority: “That person is strange/wrong.”
- From today’s passage, we learn what the church is and how we should relate to one another.

II. Main Point 1: The foundation of the church—One body by the Spirit (12:12–13)

- The church has “many parts,” yet it is “one body.”
- The Corinthian church had major differences in ethnicity and social status (Jew/Greek, slave/free).
- And yet they could be one because:
 - by baptism in one Spirit, they were made “one body,”
 - “drank of one Spirit” = they are all sustained by the same Spirit.
- The unity of the church is not because we “get along,” but because we are joined to Christ.

III. Main Point 2: A remedy for inferiority—God has arranged diverse parts (12:14–18)

- Even if the foot or the ear says, “I don’t belong,” it does not cease to belong.
- A body made only of eyes or only of ears would be unnatural and incomplete.
- A key verse: 12:18 “But now God has placed the members… just as He desired.”
- Application:
 - Our present role, personality, and gifts are not accidental; they are arranged within God’s will.
 - Do not deny yourself by saying “I’m nothing.” Receive the place God has given you.

IV. Main Point 3: A remedy for superiority—The weaker parts are more necessary (12:19–24)

- The eye cannot say to the hand, “I don’t need you” (12:21).
- The parts that seem weaker are indispensable (12:22).
- The illustration of covering the “less presentable” parts (12:23–24):
 - The parts we do not show are often most essential to life.
- Application:
 - Do not discard “those who seem weak,” “those who lack outward honor,” or “those carrying wounds or shame.”
 - Protect them, cover them with love, and become one together—this is tied to a healthy church.

V. Conclusion: Practice—Care for one another as Christ’s body (12:25–31)

1) Care for one another (12:25–27)

- Not division, but equal care for one another.
- “If one part suffers, all suffer; if one is honored, all rejoice” (12:26).
- Illustration: When you hit your little toe, your whole body feels pain—likewise, a healthy church shares pain.
- Practical suggestion: In prayer meetings and fellowship, learn each other’s burdens, pray, support one another, and share joys as well.

2) Gifts and roles are diverse—yet the center is the Lord’s teaching (12:28–30)

- The listing of apostles, prophets, teachers, etc. points more to the order of the church being built up than to ranking.
- The church first stands on the Lord’s Word and teaching; then gifts are exercised.
- Do not prioritize miracles or tongues and put the Word behind.

3) Hook for next time (12:31)

- “Greater gifts” and “a more excellent way” are presented as a question leading into chapter 13.

Prayer (Summary)

- That we would be kept from discouragement and pride rooted in comparison,
- That each person would be received as a precious part of Christ’s body,
- That we would acknowledge differences, value weakness, and share both pain and joy as a church.