

"For just as the body is one and has many members, and all the members of the body, though many, are one body, so it is with Christ.

For in one Spirit we were all baptized into one body—Jews or Greeks, slaves or free—and all were made to drink of one Spirit."



An Appeal for Unity

"For in one Spirit we were all baptized into one body—Jews or Greeks, slaves or free—and all were made to drink of one Spirit.

...that there may be no division in the body..."



Unity is Not Sameness

"For just as each of us has one body with many members, and these members do not all have the same function, so in Christ we, though many, form one body, ...

We have different gifts, according to the grace given to each of us."

-Romans 12:4-6



Enemies of Unity: I Don't Belong

"If the foot should say, 'Because I am not a hand, I do not belong to the body,' that would not make it any less a part of the body."



Enemies of Unity: I Don't Belong

"And if the ear should say, 'Because I am not an eye,

I do not belong to the body,' that would not make it any less a part of the body."



"If the whole body were an eye, where would be the sense of hearing?

If the whole body were an ear, where would be the sense of smell?"



Enemies of Unity: You Don't Belong

"The eye can't say to the hand, 'I don't need you!'

The head can't say to the feet, 'I don't need you!"



- ...the parts of the body that
- --seem to be weaker are indispensable
- --we think less honorable we bestow the greater honor...
- --unpresentable parts are treated with greater modesty, which our more presentable parts do not require.

-I Corinthians 12:22-24a



Response to Differences

"... 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 12:1-3



"But God has so composed the body, giving greater honor to the part that lacked it that there may be no division in the body, but that the members may have the same care for one another.

-I Corinthians 12:24b-26



Experience of Unity

If one member suffers, all suffer together; if one member is honored, all rejoice together.

