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**INTERNATIONAL TRAINING AND EQUIPPING MINISTRIES**  
**ITEM Conference on Ministry and Preaching**  
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**THE CHURCH AS A BODY**

Ministry Lecture #7

**Introduction:**

**I. THE CHURCH IN THE NEW TESTAMENT IS CALLED “THE BODY OF CHRIST.”**

- A. It has many members just like a physical body has many parts (Rom 12:4).
- B. Like a physical body, each member has a different function in the body (Rom 12:4).
- C. Each member of the church has a special gift from God to use when serving the entire church (Rom 12:6).
- D. Every member of the church needs every other member (1 Cor 12:21).
- E. Every member of the church, the body of Christ, is important.

**II. EACH MEMBER OF THE BODY OF CHRIST HAS SOME SPECIAL GOD-GIVEN ABILITY TO USE WHEN SERVING THE CHURCH (A SPIRITUAL GIFT).**

- A. Word of wisdom, word of knowledge, faith, healing, miracles, prophecy, distinguishing of spirits, tongues, interpretation of tongues (1 Cor 12:8-10).
- B. Prophecy, serving, teaching, exhortation, giving, leading, mercy (Rom 12:6-8).
- C. Apostles, prophets, evangelists, pastors-teachers were men given to build up the first churches (Eph 4:11-16).
  - Please note that some gifts were given only to apostles to demonstrate that they were the true messengers of God before the Bible was completed (2 Cor 12:12; Heb 2:4).
  - Please note also how you define each gift. Many times people give definitions to gifts that the Scriptures do not give. Two examples are the “word of wisdom” and the “word of knowledge.” To say that this is a supernatural knowledge give to the person from God is not supported by Scripture.

- Please note also that some gifts had a special purpose. An example is the gift of tongues which was a sign to unbelievers (1 Cor 14:22).

### **III. THERE ARE OTHER MINISTRIES THAT EACH MEMBER IS TO PERFORM TOWARDS OTHER MEMBERS IN THE CHURCH.**

- A. In Romans: be devoted to one another (12:10), be of the same mind toward one another (12:16), love one another (13:8), let us not judge one another (14:13), build up one another (14:19), be of the same mind with one another (15:5), accept one another (15:7), admonish one another (15:14)
- B. In 1 Corinthians: care for one another (12:25)
- C. In Galatians: serve one another (5:13), bear one another's burdens (6:2)
- D. In Ephesians: show tolerance to one another (4:1-2), be kind to one another (4:32), be subject to one another (5:21)
- E. In Colossians: Do not lie to one another (3:9), forgive each other (3:12-13), teach and warn one another (3:16)
- F. 1 Thessalonians: Increase in love for one another (3:12), comfort one another (4:18)
- G. In Hebrews: encourage one another (3:13), stimulate one another to love and good deeds (10:23-25)
- H. In James: do not speak against one another (4:11), do not complain . . . against one another (5:9), confess your sins to one another (5:16), pray for one another (5:16)
- I. In 1 Peter: love one another (1:22), be hospitable to one another (4:9), show humility towards one another (5:5)
- J. In 1 John: love one another (3:11, 23; 4:7, 11, 12)
- K. In 2 John: love one another (v 5)

### **IV. SOME CONCLUSIONS**

- A. Spiritual maturity is not the same thing as having a spiritual gift. Maturity is measured by faith, hope, and love.
- B. Since the different lists of spiritual gifts name different gifts it shows that the writers of the New Testament were not concerned about being perfectly consistent. Love was more important than any spiritual gift (1 Cor 12:31-13:13)