

***Christians Are Part of the Body of Christ***  
***International Bible Lesson***  
**1 Corinthians 12:12-31**  
**Sunday, May 17, 2015**  
**L.G. Parkhurst, Jr.**

*“And whether one member suffer, all the members suffer with it; or one member be honoured, all the members rejoice with it” (1 Corinthians 12:26—KJV).*

*“If one member suffers, all suffer together with it; if one member is honored, all rejoice together with it” (1 Corinthians 12:26—NRSV).*

Paul compared the Church to a human body with many parts connected and depending on one another. The Church is not like a collection of robots working side by side in a factory to produce a product. Members of the Church are parts of the Body of Christ, and Jesus Christ is the Head of the Body. Christ gives life and growth and directs the movement of His Body. Through the Holy Spirit, Christ gives spiritual life to the Body of Christ so all the members can function and serve the whole Body as the Head directs. But, Christians are not programmed to work as a computer software program. Every Christian knows that they study the Bible, pray, and seek the Lord’s will as a vital part of their daily life in order to do whatever the

Head of the Body wants them to do; they know they make significant choices. Still, when they look back and review their past, they know that Jesus Christ was guiding them as the Head they sought to obey. Every part of the Body of Christ works together to achieve the purposes of Christ, and the Holy Spirit uses the Body of Christ to draw more parts to the body from every racial and economic background to serve the world, to make disciples, and to teach everything that Jesus commanded. Throughout the 2,000 year history of the Church, some parts of Christ's Body have suffered while other parts have been honored, but joined together by the one Holy Spirit, when one member suffers, all suffer, and when one member is honored, all rejoice together. – L.G. Parkhurst, Jr.

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## **Thinking Further**

1. Why might a foot say it is not a part of the body because it is not a hand?

2. What are some limitations the church might face if everyone only had one gift and every person was exactly the same as the other with the one same gift?

3. Who arranged the members of the body and how was it done?

4. What can be a consequence when some members of the body think they do not need other members of the body?

5. What are two things members of the Body of Christ can do together that we have learned from this lesson?

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