

**Thesis:** The human body is a miraculous machine; it is a single unit with various members all working together for the good of the body. Likewise, the church, as the body of Christ, ought to function similarly. It should enjoy *unity* of the body, capitalizing on the *diversity* of its members acting with *reciprocity* towards one another.

**Support:** Romans 12:3-8 (cf. I Corinthians 12; I Peter 4:10-11)

## I. Greeting

- a. Good morning!
- b. Deacon appointment.

## 2. Introduction

- a. The human body is a miraculous machine.
  - i. It is comprised of 100 trillion cells, 206 bones, 640 muscles, and 23 organs (including the skin).

- ii. There are ten systems in the human body. These include:

1. Circulatory system
2. Respiratory system
3. Immune system
4. Excretory system
5. Urinary system
6. Muscular system
7. Endocrine system
8. Digestive system
9. Nervous system
10. Reproductive system.

- a. These systems control the functions of the body.

- iii. What is truly remarkable is that each system, each organ, each muscle, each bone, and each cell has a particular job to, and they all act in a coordinated fashion.

1. Dr. Craig Freudenrich explains within the context of working out, “In strenuous exercise, just about every system in your body either focuses its efforts on helping the muscles do their work, or it shuts down. For example, your heart beats faster during strenuous exercise so that it can pump more blood to the muscles, and your stomach shuts down during strenuous exercise so that it does not waste energy that the muscles can use.”

2. When you are involved in any activity, whether it be:

- a. Sleeping,
- b. Reading,
- c. Smiling,
- d. Driving,
- e. Hitting a baseball,
- f. Strenuous exercise,

- i. Your body instinctively knows what to do with little or no conscious awareness.





2. In a related passage found in **I Corinthians 12:12-13** we read these words, “<sup>12</sup> 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. <sup>13</sup> 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.”
  - a. There are many members or parts of the body, but there is only one body, and that one body is entered into at the point of baptism.
- ii. This one body is identified as the one church, and its one head is Christ Jesus.
  1. The scripture says, “<sup>18</sup> And he [Christ] is the head of the body, the church” (**Colossians 1:18; cf. Ephesians 1:22-23**).
- iii. Given that we’re one body under one head, we must maintain our unity despite being comprised of so many different members just like our physical body maintains its unity despite having hundreds of different body parts.
  1. Jesus prays for our unity in **John 17:20-21**, “<sup>20</sup> I do not ask for these only, but also for those who will believe in me through their word, <sup>21</sup> that they may all be one, just as you, Father, are in me, and I in you, that they also may be in us, so that the world may believe that you have sent me.”
    - a. Jesus prays that we would be one.
  2. Paul pleads for our unity. He writes, “<sup>2</sup> complete my joy by being of the same mind, having the same love, being in full accord and of one mind” (**Philippians 2:2**).
    - a. Wouldn’t it be nice if all of the self-proclaimed followers of Jesus actually took these scriptures to heart?
      - i. Almost 80% of the population of Marathon, Clark, and Wood counties say they are Christians.
      - ii. Wouldn’t it be nice if we were all actually one?
        1. All submitting to the one baptism putting us in the one body and believing and contending for the one faith.
        2. If this were the case, our Sunday morning attendance would be 1550 just with Spencer city residents alone.
          - a. Overnight, we would be a megachurch!
    3. That’s what Jesus prayed for. That’s what Paul pleaded for.
      - a. Thusfar, however, within Christendom, Jesus’ prayer has not been answered, and Paul’s appeals have fallen on deaf ears.
      - b. Self-professed followers of Christ have decided to reject God’s word and its teachings.



- a. God wants us to discover them, develop them, and utilize them within this body to his glory.
        - i. Preachers preach.
        - ii. Elders lead.
        - iii. Deacons serve.
        - iv. Others teach.
        - v. Encourage.
        - vi. Contribute.
        - vii. And minister to the sick and needy.
        - viii. This list is by no means exhaustive.
    - 4. There are any number of things that we can do within the church using the gifts that God has given to each of us.
  - b. By design, we have diversity among our members, gifts, and functions to accomplish the work of the one spiritual body.
- 7. **The third and last fundamental truth is reciprocity; the members are to have reciprocity or mutual dependence on one another.**
  - a. In **Romans 12:5** Paul says we are “individually members one of another.”
    - i. He states this idea another way in **I Corinthians 12:7**, “<sup>7</sup> To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good.”
      - 1. Because we all have been blessed with different gifts and perform different functions within the body, we need to lean on each other.
        - a. We’re not supposed to work independently of one another.
        - b. Others ought to benefit from what each of us contributes to the whole.
          - i. That’s what it means to be members one of another using our gifts for the common good.
      - 2. We see this concept in our physical bodies.
        - a. Our entire physical body benefits because:
          - i. Our ears can hear.
          - ii. Our eyes can see.
          - iii. Our nose can smell.
          - iv. Our feet can run.
      - 3. Likewise, the entire spiritual body ought benefit because:
        - a. I can preach.
        - b. Elders can lead.
        - c. Deacons can serve.
          - i. Moreover, it should also benefit from your gifts and your talents.
            - 1. Peter writes in **I Peter 4:10-11**, “<sup>10</sup> As each has received a gift, use it to serve one another, as good stewards of God’s varied grace:
              - <sup>11</sup> whoever speaks, as one who speaks oracles



of God; whoever serves, as one who serves by the strength that God supplies—in order that in everything God may be glorified through Jesus Christ. To him belong glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen.

- a. When we are good stewards of our gifts and use them to serve others, the scripture says God is glorified through Jesus Christ.
- b. God has given each of us gifts, and he expects us to use them to benefit others and bring glory to his name. This is reciprocity.

## 8. Conclusion

- a. The human body is a marvelous machine.
  - i. There are hundreds of body parts working as one all benefiting each other under one head.
- b. Because of this, it serves as a model for the church, the spiritual body of Christ.
  - i. Like the physical body, the church has:
    - 1. Unity of the body.
    - 2. Diversity of its members.
    - 3. Reciprocity of its members.
  - ii. When we all employ our gifts of grace with these things in mind, the spiritual body of Christ can effectively and efficiently perform the work we are called to do.
- c. This morning, I call on each of you to use your gifts to the glory of God.
- d. We have a lot of work to do.

## 9. Invitation

- a. One of the primary works of the church is evangelism.
  - i. Paul writes in **Ephesians 3:7-10**, “<sup>7</sup> Of this gospel I was made a minister according to the gift of God's grace, which was given me by the working of his power. <sup>8</sup> To me, though I am the very least of all the saints, this grace was given, to preach to the Gentiles the unsearchable riches of Christ, <sup>9</sup> and to bring to light for everyone what is the plan of the mystery hidden for ages in God who created all things, <sup>10</sup> so that through the church the manifold wisdom of God might now be made known to the rulers and authorities in the heavenly places.”
    - 1. Paul was made an apostle and servant to bring the good news of Jesus Christ to Jews and Gentiles, a mystery that was at one time hidden.
    - 2. Today, the church makes this manifold wisdom of God known throughout the world.
- b. This morning, as the Lord's church in Spencer, we bring you good news – you can be saved from your sins through the death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus Christ.
- c. If you are here this morning and you have not yet taken advantage of the sacrifice of Jesus, you now have an opportunity to do so.
  - i. Believe.
  - ii. Repent.
  - iii. Confess.

- iv. Allow yourself to be immersed.
- d. If you are ready to obey the gospel this morning or you have a care you'd like to bring before the church, won't you please come forward as we stand and sing.
- e. Let us stand and sing.

