

Come Follow Me Podcast
Elo Viz production
Week 36
1 Corinthians 8-13

In chapter twelve Paul gives a very interesting analogy about the body of Christ. After telling us that we are all blessed with different gifts of the spirit and how there is a reason we receive these gifts, starting in verse 12 he says:

“12 For as the body is one, and hath many members, and all the members of that one body, being many, are one body: so also *is* Christ.

13 For by one Spirit are we all baptized into one **body**, whether *we be* Jews or **Gentiles**, whether *we be* **bond** or free; and have been all made to drink into one Spirit.

14 For the body is not one member, but many.

15 If the foot shall say, Because I am not the hand, I am not of the body; is it therefore not of the body?

16 And if the ear shall say, Because I am not the eye, I am not of the body; is it therefore not of the body?

17 If the whole body *were* an eye, where *were* the hearing? If the whole *were* hearing, where *were* the smelling?

18 But now hath God set the members every one of them in the body, as it hath pleased him.

21 And the eye cannot say unto the hand, I have no need of thee: nor again the **head** to the feet, I have no need of you.

25 That there should be no schism in the body; but *that* the members should have the same **care** one for another.

26 And whether one member **suffer**, all the members **suffer** with it; or one member be honoured, all the members rejoice with it.

27 Now ye are the body of **Christ**, and **members** in particular. (1 Corinthians 12:12-27)

I think when we read this we get a pretty good understanding about what Paul is talking about. But we have to admit that it is a little strange. Because, we may not know where we fit. In this analogy that Paul is giving what part of the body are we? What is our role? Where do we fit? These are all things that we are going to discuss today. But first, let's look at the reason for this unity that God is calling for.

Zig Ziglar often tells a story about the Giant Belgian Draft horse:

This breed of horse can stand as tall as seven feet, and weigh as much as three thousand pounds. They are known for their strength and ability to pull extremely heavy objects. In fact a single draft horse can pull upwards of seven thousand pounds. What is interesting is that if you

took two horses that have never met each other and never worked with each other and strapped them together, you would think that they would pull double the weight. But in fact they would be able to pull an additional thousand pounds together (fifteen thousand pounds). But... If you take two of these draft horses that have grown up with each other. They have trained together and know and trust each other their ability to pull is multiplied. Instead of pulling fifteen thousand pounds they can pull up to twenty five thousand pounds. That is nearly three and a half times what they were able to do on their own.

<http://ready4thegame.blogspot.com/2011/03/even-strongest-become-stronger-with.html>

I love the principle that we can learn from these horses. God Himself also taught this principle and shared some very interesting lessons. Remember the tower of Babel? In the book of Mormon we read about the brother of Jared and his family leaving that area and traveling to the promised land. But, did you know that the Bible also talks about this event? Genesis chapter 11 says:

“1 And the whole earth was of one **language**, and of one speech.

2 And it came to pass, as they journeyed from the east, that they found a plain in the land of **Shinar**; and they dwelt there.

3 And they said one to another, Go to, let us make brick, and burn them throughly. And they had brick for stone, and **slime** had they for mortar.

4 And they said, Go to, let us build us a city and a tower, whose top *may reach* unto heaven; and let us make us a **name**, lest we be scattered abroad upon the face of the whole earth.

5 And the LORD came down to see the city and the tower, which the children of men builded.

6 And the LORD said, Behold, the people [*are*] one, and they have all one language; and this they begin to do: and now nothing will be restrained from them, which they have imagined to do.” (Genesis 11:1-6)

That last line is huge. God understands this principle; “Nothing will be restrained from them, which they have imagined to do” because they were one.

When focusing on Battle strategies this is a big deal. If you can separate the troops from each other or get them to turn on each other or create strife between them you can conquer their whole army.

What is interesting here in the tower of Babel is that what they were doing (working together) was a fantastic thing to do. The bad part was that they were working together for the wrong purpose, so God confounds their language.

In the scriptures as a whole it is God's desire that we are one. In fact there are a lot of scriptures that tell us that we need to be of one heart and one mind. The most famous and important is the very last prayer of the Savior just before His trial and crucifixion. It is also known as "the intercessory prayer". Speaking of His disciples Jesus said:

"20 Neither **pray** I for these alone, but for them also which shall **believe** on me through their word; (That is us)

21 That they all may be **one**; as thou, **Father**, *art* in me, and I in thee, that they also may be **one** in us: that the world may believe that thou hast sent me.

22 And the glory which thou gavest me I have given them; that they may be **one**, even as we are **one**:

23 I in them, and thou in me, that they may be made **perfect** in one; and that the world may know that thou hast sent me, and hast **loved** them, as thou hast loved me.

(John 17:20-23)

Now, if that is not as clear as day, I don't know what is. It is very obvious that God wants us to work together as one, and be one as we accomplish His work.

But here are the two big questions:

What does this look like and how do we do it?

The first question is easy to answer. There are two very good examples in the scriptures of what this looks like. The first was the City of Enoch the second was the Nephites after Christ visited them. What I find interesting is the description given of both of these groups of people existing hundreds of years apart, listen to how similarly they are described.

First the City of Enoch:

"18 And the Lord called his people **ZION**, because they were of **one** heart and one mind, and dwelt in righteousness; and there was no poor among them."

(Moses 7:18)

Now the people of Nephi:

"3 And they had **all** things common among them; therefore there were not rich and poor, bond and free, but they were all made free, and partakers of the heavenly **gift**."

(4 Nephi 1:)

To answer the first question about what this looks like, these are both very clear indicators to know if we have reached this level of oneness that we can be considered God's people. Its obvious that we have a ways to go. Which helps us to look closer at the second question: How do we do it? How do we as a people become one in Christ?

President Marion G Romney explains it perfectly, he said:

“If a single person, yielding to Satan, is filled with the works of the flesh, he wars within himself. If two yield, they each war within themselves and fight with each other. If many people yield, a society [reaps] the harvest of great stress and contention. If the rulers of a country yield, there is world-wide contention.”

President Romney continued: “As the works of the flesh have universal application, so likewise does the gospel of peace. If one man lives it, he has peace within himself. If two men live it, they each have peace within themselves and with each other. If the citizens live it, the nation has domestic peace. When there are enough nations enjoying the fruit of the Spirit to control world affairs, then, and only then, will the war-drums throb no longer, and the battle flags be furl’d...”

(See Alfred Lord Tennyson, “Locksley Hall,” *The Complete Poetical Works of Tennyson*, ed. W. J. Rolfe, Boston: Houghton-Mifflin Co., 1898, p. 93, lines 27–28.)”

<https://www.churchofjesuschrist.org/study/general-conference/2023/04/41christofferson?lang=eng>

I know it may sound a little corny but the golden rule really is the answer to peace on earth. A genuine appreciation for every member of God's family and what they are able to contribute to His work. Perhaps when we feel the need to criticize and judge one of our fellow body members we could remember one important principle: That we are not the head of the body of Christ, Jesus is. Therefore our work is to do our part, and it is His duty to judge and change those members of the body that He wishes. Not ours.

God has given us each individual gifts and blessings. May we be grateful for those and grateful to God for the ones He has given others to assist us. For that is the way of peace and joy.

In the Name of Jesus Christ, Amen.