



1 Corinthians 12
12:12-20
New International Version

¹²Just as a body, though one, has many parts, but all its many parts form one body, so it is with Christ. ¹³For we were all baptized by^[c] one Spirit so as to form one body—whether Jews or Gentiles, slave or free—and we were all given the one Spirit to drink. ¹⁴Even so the body is not made up of one part but of many.

¹⁵Now if the foot should say, “Because I am not a hand, I do not belong to the body,” it would not for that reason stop being part of the body. ¹⁶And if the ear should say, “Because I am not an eye, I do not belong to the body,” it would not for that reason stop being part of the body. ¹⁷If the whole body were an eye, where would the sense of hearing be? If the whole body were an ear, where would the sense of smell be?¹⁸But in fact God has placed the parts in the body, every one of them, just as he wanted them to be. ¹⁹If they were all one part, where would the body be? ²⁰As it is, there are many parts, but one body.

If you found the perfect church, would you join it? It's already here.

Matthew 13:15

For this people's heart has become calloused; they hardly hear with their ears, and they have closed their eyes. Otherwise they might see with their eyes, hear with their ears, understand with their hearts and turn, and **I would heal** them.'



Sermon Notes

The Perfect Church

We see the church not as it is, but as we are.

For those who **AREN'T**

A place where broken people are beautifully mended by Christ into a masterpiece of gentleness, gratitude and grace.

For those who can **SEE IT**

Blessed are those who see wonderful things in everyone.

For those who **WANT IT.**

Train your mind and open heart to see the good in everything

Marks of the Perfect Church

1. **Christ**— *Jesus is the language of the Church*
2. **Challenges** — *“The Kingdom of God is like...”*
3. **Compassion** — *Take the love you have for me and spread it around.*

“Not my will, but thine, be done.” Luke 22:42



Christian Faith

WHAT IS GLORIFICATION?

Glorification refers to the final state of believers after Christ returns. Our bodies will be physically resurrected and we will receive a resurrected body which is, mysteriously, both spiritual and physical. Without Prevenient Grace we are in *bondage* to sin. After Justification we are freed from the *penalty* of sin. Through sanctification we are freed from the *power* of sin. At glorification we are delivered from the very *presence* of sin. In this glorified state we are able to experience the fullness of the original purpose of our creation! **Good News!**

This final state is known as the “new Creation” since the scriptures tell us that God creates a new heaven and a new earth. In the New Creation, we will be engaged in all the kinds of industrious work and projects and inventions and building that we are involved with here, but without the presence of sin. Indeed, this is the great transforming fact about the New Creation. It is not a spirit-type existence where we sit endlessly on a cloud with wings of an angel, as we see in the medieval artwork. We will not be standing forever in worship service that never has a benediction. Rather, we should see that all of life becomes an act of worship, and the absence of sin transforms the very nature of life and work.

(Money is like salt water)

A man was stranded on a deserted Pacific island for years. Finally one day a boat comes sailing into view, and the man frantically waves and draws the skipper’s attention. The boat comes near the island and the sailor gets out and greets the stranded man.

After a while the sailor asks, “What are those three huts you have here?”

“Well, that’s my house there.”

“What’s that next hut?” asks the sailor.

“I built that hut to be my church.”

“What about the other hut?”

“Oh, that’s where I used to go to church.”

There’s an old joke that says if you’re looking for the perfect church and you find it, don’t join it - *or else you’ll ruin it!*

The point of the joke is easy to see. A perfect church simply doesn’t exist. Every church consists of people, and it’s all those people that cause the problems. Church people are often stubborn, selfish, egotistical, self-centered and ignorant - and those are just the elders!

May we walk in humility, looking to that day when Christ presents “the church to himself in splendor, without spot or wrinkle or any such thing... holy and without blemish.” (Eph. 5:27)