



Daily Reflections

September 13, 2016

Scripture

1 Corinthians 12: 12-31

Brothers and sisters:

As a body is one though it has many parts,
and all the parts of the body, though many, are one body,
so also Christ.

For in one Spirit we were all baptized into one Body,
whether Jews or Greeks, slaves or free persons,
and we were all given to drink of one Spirit.

Now the body is not a single part, but many.

Now you are Christ's Body, and individually parts of it.

Some people God has designated in the Church
to be, first, Apostles; second, prophets; third, teachers;
then, mighty deeds;

then gifts of healing, assistance, administration,
and varieties of tongues.

Are all Apostles? Are all prophets? Are all teachers?

Do all work mighty deeds? Do all have gifts of healing?
Do all speak in tongues? Do all interpret?
Strive eagerly for the greatest spiritual gifts.

Our Scripture Reflection

Paul, a very wise teacher, uses vivid imagery in an attempt to capture the imagination of the Corinthians. In today's text, he describes the Church as a body, the body of Christ on earth. And, as a body has many parts each with its own dignity and function, so, too, is the life of the Church. Each part, each member must function in unison in order to achieve the body of Christ's purpose: To bring salvation to this world in the name of Jesus.

Food for your Journey

Since the church is a living organism, it's natural for it to grow if it's healthy. The church is a Body, not a business -- an organism, not an organization. It's alive. If a church is not growing, it is dying. ...

Your body has nine different systems (circulatory, respiratory, digestive, skeletal, etc.). When these systems are all in balance, it produces health. But when your body gets out of balance, we call that "disease." Likewise when the body of Christ becomes unbalanced, disease occurs. Health and growth can only occur when everything is brought into balance.

--Rick Warren, "Church growth is okay, but church health is what matters,"
Pastors.com.

Prayer from the Heart

Dear Jesus, Through Baptism, You have given me the dignity of being a member of Your Body here on earth. Help me to live up to the dignity You have given me so that I may accomplish Your purpose. Amen.