

Designed by God

We have been talking about the gifts from the Holy Spirit to each person. (The Holy Spirit regenerates us when we are born again and then we work hand in hand through the Word and through the gifts that we are given.)

This demonstrates that we are to be more than just born-again and then waiting on heaven.

It also demonstrates that we are all to serve in some way in a local church as a saved, baptized and added to church person!

Acts 2:38 (ESV)

³⁸And Peter said to them, “Repent and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins, and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.

Acts 2:41 (ESV)

⁴¹So those who received his word were baptized, and there were added that day about three thousand souls.

- Repentance for the remission of sins, baptized to demonstrate it, and empowered through the working of the church. (Added is to the church)
- The New Testament design was for a Christian to be an empowered witness, through the working of the Holy Spirit. (You shall receive power... witnesses)
- And gifts to serve in the church you are added to.

You can see that our Christian life is to be an active one to the world and in a church.

If a church does not have diverse parts of the members, it ultimately will not end well. That body will have served its purpose, in other words. (**It may require some serious healing too.**)

I contend that we are still being designed. (Some churches in Revelation had lost their first love and were challenged, and some were neither cold nor hot.)

1 Corinthians 12:14–20 (ESV)

¹⁴For the body does not consist of one member but of many. ¹⁵If the foot should say, “Because I am not a hand, I do not belong to the body,” that would not make it any less a part of the body. ¹⁶And if the ear should say, “Because I am not an eye, I do not belong to the body,” that would not make it any less a part of the body. ¹⁷If the whole body were an eye, where would be the sense of hearing? If the whole body were an ear, where would be the sense of smell? ¹⁸But as it is, God arranged the members in the body, each one of them, as he chose. ¹⁹If all were a single member, where would the body be? ²⁰As it is, there are many parts, yet one body.

- 1.) God is the builder (Do you remember the Mr. Potato Head’s) You could really put together a bizarre looking potato head, (One eye or three for that matter, etc.)
 - a.) The cool thing is that even though we are all different, God brings us together with our uniqueness and gifts.

- b.) Some might try and be like the others, but that would be a mistake. (For example, pastors, deacons are not the same, but lines have been blurred recently.)
- c.) It is not for recognition/it is for service.

2. His design is to make us unified and cohesive together (To stay together properly)

1 Corinthians 12:21–26 (ESV)

²¹The eye cannot say to the hand, “I have no need of you,” nor again the head to the feet, “I have no need of you.” ²²On the contrary, the parts of the body that seem to be weaker are indispensable, ²³and on those parts of the body that we think less honorable we bestow the greater honor, and our unpresentable parts are treated with greater modesty, ²⁴which our more presentable parts do not require. But God has so composed the body, giving greater honor to the part that lacked it, ²⁵that there may be no division in the body, but that the members may have the same care for one another. ²⁶If one member suffers, all suffer together; if one member is honored, all rejoice together.

- A.) No matter the role of any member, they are all equal together.
- B.) So, you see how we need each other. (Without, we are incomplete)
- C.) We celebrate together and we mourn together. We serve together.
- D.) Everyone doing the same thing causes problems, but everyone working complimentarily with each other unifies and propels.
- E.) Healthy together or unhealthy together. (Healing together!)

3. It works when God is allowed to build a church-

1 Corinthians 12:27–31 (ESV)

²⁷Now you are the body of Christ and individually members of it. ²⁸And God has appointed in the church first apostles, second prophets, third teachers, then miracles, then gifts of healing, helping, administrating, and various kinds of tongues. ²⁹Are all apostles? Are all prophets? Are all teachers? Do all work miracles? ³⁰Do all possess gifts of healing? Do all speak with tongues? Do all interpret? ³¹But earnestly desire the higher gifts.

And I will show you a still more excellent way.

- a.) So, we see that we really all have something to contribute.
- b.) We need to remember they are for us to serve. (Too much concern on being served.)
- c.) I desired to be a teacher and pastor, but it was up to God!

Pay attention to the burning in your heart in service at the church.

Appreciate each other and support one another.

The most important gift is salvation!