

THE CHURCH THE FAMILY OF GOD: WE ARE ALL THE BODY OF CHRIST

Houses of Light Church • August 12-13, 2023 • Pastor Netz Gómez

I. REVIEW AND INTRODUCTION

- A. We have talked about how God made us members of His family through the work of Christ (Eph. 2:19). He is our Father and we are his children (Jn. 1:12-13). **The church needs to be, in its nature, a family that hosts the presence of God because we have been built as a holy temple in which God dwells (Eph. 2:21-22),**
- B. **According to Scripture, the purpose of the church is to manifest all of God's desire in this age both to the world and to principalities and powers (Eph. 3:10-12). The church now needs to be a glorious glimpse of what we will see eternally (Eph. 3:20-21). and precisely because of this, we all need to be involved in the full reality of what the church is. May God bring a conviction into our lives of the privilege of serving the church (Rom. 12:4-5). The more satisfied you are in God, the more free you are to sacrifice yourself for others and the less you focus on personal success because all the success you need you already have by being loved by God and responding to his love (Jn. 15:9).**
- C. **If we are going to function as the body of Christ we must have a passion for unity. When we are alone or divided we are vulnerable and weak but there is power and manifestation of the presence in the unity of the church (Ps. 133). Just as the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit are different from each other but at the same time totally united in purpose, so it must be between us because the Trinity is the model of perfect unity (Jn. 17:21-22).**

II. DIFFERENT IN FUNCTION BUT WITH THE SAME PURPOSE

1 Cor. 12:4-7 "Now there are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit; 5 and there are varieties of service, but the same Lord; 6 and there are varieties of activities, but it is the same God who empowers them all in everyone. 7 To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good." (NIV)

- A. There are three words that we can highlight in these verses: **"diversity"** **"same"** and **"all"**. The apostle Paul lists the various gifts, ministries and functions but affirms that he is the same Holy Spirit, the same Lord and the same God working in all for the good of all. Here we see diversity and unity in purpose clearly described.
- B. The word **"gift"** (Gr. *charisma*) means: grace that denotes capacities that distinguish Christians and empower them to serve the church of Christ. The word **"ministry"** (Gr. *diakonia*) means the service of those who carry out the orders. It can refer to those who proclaim the Word among men, the apostles, prophets, evangelists, etc. It is also the ministry of those who help meet needs by distributing charity (Acts 6). The word **"operations"** or **functions** (Gr. *energeme*) refers to the effects or things that the Father forges in his children for the benefit of the entire church.
- C. v.7 **"To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good"**
Paul concludes by saying that we are all given a **"manifestation"** (Gr. *fanerosis*)

of the Holy Spirit which unfolds to edify, comfort or encourage to the church (1 Cor. 14:3).

- D. All these capacities are produced by the Holy Spirit in us, so there is no boasting, on the contrary, a sense of responsibility must awaken in us. **What God produces in you is not for your personal benefit but for the common good; as a member of the body of Christ if something is only about you it is broken.**

III. THE VARIOUS MANIFESTATIONS: GIFTS, MINISTRIES AND FUNCTIONS OF THE SPIRIT

- A. The apostle Paul gives two lists of gifts in 1 Cor. 12:4-11 and in Rom. 12:6-8. These capacities are given to us but we can and must train ourselves and learn how to better use these gifts according to the guidelines of the Scriptures..
1. **"utterance of wisdom"** (Gr. *sofia*) It is the knowledge of human and divine things. It is the wisdom of God as manifested in the formation and execution of his counsel.
 2. **"utterance of knowledge"** (Gr. *gnosis*) means intelligence in a deeper way especially to distinguish lawful and unlawful things for Christians. It is a moral wisdom.
 3. **"Faith"** (Gr. *pistis*) means conviction about the truth, it is the confidence and holy fervor that God exists, he is the Creator and sovereign of all things, the provider and giver of eternal salvation through Christ.
 4. **"gifts of healing and miracles"** (Gr. *dunamis*) It is the grace to manifest the supernatural power of God in healing and other wonders.
 5. **"prophecy"** a Holy Spirit-inspired message declaring God's purposes, whether reproving and admonishing or comforting the afflicted, or revealing hidden things; including anticipating future events.
 6. **"distinguish between spirits"**: it is the grace of the Spirit to distinguish or differentiate what is behind the superficial, what spirit is operating in someone.
 7. **"genres of tongues"** They are the languages inspired by the Holy Spirit which express the mysteries of God and produce personal and congregational edification (1 Cor. 14:1-5).
 8. **"various kinds of tongues"** It is the capacity that the Holy Spirit grants to understand the mysteries that the Spirit speaks for the edification of the church. (1 Cor. 14:13).
 9. **"teach"** is the speech that instructs and imparts doctrine, explains things in a way that others understand.
 10. **"to encourage others"** (Gr. *parakaleo*) means to comfort, encourage, and strengthen.
 11. **"contributes"** It is the generous grace to share with others all kinds of resources.
 12. **"lead"** It is the ability to go forward protecting, directing and caring for others.

13. ***“acts of mercy”*** It is the grace of the Holy Spirit to help the afflicted, showing God's compassion to those who are in need.

1 Cor. 12:11 “All these are empowered by one and the same Spirit, who apportions to each one individually as he wills.”

B. God distributes these gifts as He wants but we can and should also yearn to abound in these gifts. The church must be glorious and it is by displaying the abundance of grace that He bestows through the Holy Spirit.

1 Cor. 14:1 y 12 “Pursue love, and earnestly desire the spiritual gifts, especially that you may prophesy... 12 So with yourselves, since you are eager for manifestations of the Spirit, strive to excel in building up the church.”

IV. WE ARE DIFFERENT AND WE COMPLEMENT EACH OTHER

1 Cor. 12:12-13 “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. 13 For in one Spirit we were all baptized into one body—Jews or Greeks, slaves[d] or free—and all were made to drink of one Spirit.”

A. There is a strong tendency to compare ourselves and Paul, inspired by the Holy Spirit, demolishes the arguments that could separate us:

1. **THE WALLS THAT SEPARATE US ARE BROKEN:** Although we are many members we are one body in Christ the walls of separation of race or social background are broken down; we have all partaken of one Spirit. No one is inferior or superior, nor is it too different that we cannot be one.

2. **THE COMPARISON IS BROKEN:** We must accept our role and not covet the other's or underestimate our own. This is a matter that we must consider in order to love and gratefully accept our place and that of others..

1 Cor. 12:15-16 “If 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. 16 And 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.”

3. **GOD CHOSE OUR ROLE AND GOT IT RIGHT.** God's will is good nice and perfect and the assignment God gave you is the best. The body cannot function without all its vital parts.

1 Cor. 12:18-19 “But as it is, God arranged the members in the body, each one of them, as he chose. 19 If all were a single member, where would the body be?”

4. **WE MUST NOT THINK THAT WE DO NOT NEED OTHERS:** In the same way that we should not covet being what we have not been called to be, neither can we think that we do not need the gift of the other. Before God everything has the same value, what counts is faithfulness.

1 Cor. 12:21-24 “The 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.” 22 On the contrary, the parts of the body that seem to be weaker are indispensable, 23 and 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,

24 which our more presentable parts do not require. But God has so composed the body, giving greater honor to the part that lacked it."

5. **WE ARE PART OF THE OTHERS AND THE OTHERS ARE PART OF US:** This breaks the division and leads us to care for each other and unite in a real way to the point that we suffer and receive honor together.

1 Cor. 12:25-26 "that there may be no division in the body, but that the members may have the same care for one another. 26 If one member suffers, all suffer together; if one member is honored, all rejoice together"

6. **IN DIVERSITY GOD HAS GIVEN AN ORDER:** No one can feel more important than the other but more responsible before God. This is not a matter of superiority of some trades over others but of God's design for his house.

1 Cor. 12:27-28 "Now you are the body of Christ and individually members of it. 28 And 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."

V. CONCLUSION

- A. What would happen to the church if all of you discovered, activated, and grew in your gift? Maturity is not knowing everything, it is rather submitting to everything that comes from God. God gives each of us a part and we need the other to receive what God supplies through others as weak as you.

VI. REFLECTION QUESTIONS

- A. Do you consider that you know and use the gift or gifts that God has given you to build the church? Explain
- B. In your experience, how have you been edified by the gifts of others?
- C. How are you living unity with the Body of Christ? Do you feel united? explaineda

ANNOUNCEMENTS

1. Prophecy Rooms Wednesday August 16. Healing Rooms Thursday August 24 at 7:00 p.m. Please register at www.nhop.la
2. September 9 "Gen Z for Jesus" at the Angelus Temple. Please register at housesoflight.org/holy58 • Volunteers needed to serve please scan the QR Code that appears on the screens. We ask for your cooperation in donating towels and new clothes for the young people who will be baptized. You can bring them during the week or at the end of the service. More information on the table outside.
3. Women's Retreat September 1-2. Men's Retreat September 15-16. Register today at the bookstore or at housesoflight.org
4. The Passion for Jesus and Leadership Summit Conferences are getting closer: September 28 to 30. Please register at www.nhop.la This year we will not have the children's track. Children 10 years and older need their ticket to enter.