

God Arranged

7-25-21

1 Corinthians 12:18 (ESV)

God arranged the members in the body, each one of them, as HE chose.

Think about a business, a government, an army, etc. The whole idea is that a multitude of gifted and dedicated people with a whole variety of duties and responsibilities are organized to work well together. At least this is the desire. This also is the desire of God for HIS church. The church is God's business, government, army in this world and "God arranged the members in HIS body, the church, each one of them, as HE chose." Not only has God arranged HIS body, the church, BUT HE has ALSO gifted the church.

1 Corinthians 12:4 (ESV)

Now there are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit.

These gifts are concrete manifestations of the Spirit and not of natural, birthright propensities. Although there are varieties of gifts, they are from the same Holy Spirit.

1 Corinthians 12:5 (ESV)

There are varieties of service, but the same Lord.

In addition to Spiritual gifts, the indwelling Christ calls us to service and enables his people to render service. The everyday acts of service are now set on a par with the recognized, supernatural phenomena of the Spirit. Humble, everyday service is not to be despised.

1 Corinthians 12:6 (ESV)

There are varieties of activities, but it is the same God who empowers them all in everyone.

This is God's power in action. The divine activities are many, but it is *the same God*. The emphasis in this passage is on what God does in believers for any activity they are called to.

1 Corinthians 12:7 (ESV)

To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good.

This simple sentence states the truth that God most wants the church to realize. *To each one* is important; everyone has some gift from God. Spiritual gifts are always given to be used, and to edify the whole body of believers. **The divine giving of spiritual gifts is the concrete outworking of God's purpose.**

1 Corinthians 12:11 (ESV)

All these are empowered by one and the same Spirit, who apportions to each one individually as HE wills.

God gives to each one individually as HE wills. God's concern is for our unity; however, there is no such thing as true unity without diversity.

1 Corinthians 12:13 (ESV)

For in one Spirit we were all baptized into one body—Jews or Greeks, slaves or free—and all were made to drink of one Spirit.

Pay close attention to this verse. The foundation to solve all the social, racial, and economic issues are found in this one verse.

These terms express the basic distinctions that separated people in culture—race/religion and social status. In Christ these old distinctions have been obliterated. The only way to resolve race and social issues is by salvation through Christ, transformation through the Holy Spirit, by the revelation through the Bible. Even if a supposedly Bible believing preacher says Christ, the Holy Spirit, and the Bible are not sufficient for today's issues, discount him as deceived. The Spirit unites peoples across lines of ethnicity and social class that would otherwise divide them. When we accept Christ, we were all baptized by the Spirit or drank of the one Spirit. This is the cleansing and empowering work that the Holy Spirit. Water baptism is an outward symbol of this reality.

What makes us one is our common experience of the Spirit. The Spirit is what essentially distinguishes believer from nonbeliever; the Spirit is what especially marks the beginning of Christian life; the Spirit above all is what makes a person a child of God. Thus, it is natural to refer to our unity in the body of Christ in terms of the Spirit. The Spirit is a dynamically experienced reality. We cannot get around the implication that the experience of the Spirit is accompanied by visible, evidential phenomena making us the body of Christ.

1 Corinthians 12:27 (ESV)

Now you are the body of Christ and individually members of it.

This plainly says, “we are Christ’s body,” meaning that collectively in our common relationship to Christ through the Spirit we are HIS one body. At the same time individually, we make up its many parts. This means that individually we are members of the church with a variety of “assigned” parts. **The emphasis lies on the many who give the one body its necessary diversity. God through Jesus Christ is the racial, social, and economic solution for mankind.**

God understands the problem and solved the problem. Always remember that the solution of the racial, social, and economic issues begins solely by salvation through Jesus Christ and the transforming power of the Holy Spirit according to the Scriptures. All other worldly pseudo solutions that in any way dilute this truth are from the depths of Hell that will bring devastating results racially, socially, and economically.

God is the only answer for mankind’s issues, and we can only determine those answers based on the revelation in the Scripture. God arranged the church to reveal those answers.

John 14:6 (ESV)

Jesus said, “I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.”