



# GIFTS – UNITY AND DIVERSITY IN THE CHURCH

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## Church Alive

We are on our journey in our series Church Alive. We're trusting that each one of us will be awakened in our God-given gifts and callings in a fresh way and begin to serve one another and make a difference in our city.

## Unity and Diversity in the Church

### Introduction

Pictures of Christ and the church in the Bible:

- Flock of sheep and the good Shepherd
- Bride and the Bridegroom
- Army and the Captain
- Building and the Chief Cornerstone
- Human body and the Head

In all of the analogies, we see Christ as the Head.

*Ephesians 1:22-23 "and He put all things under His feet and gave Him to be Head over all things to the church, which is His body, the fullness of Him who fills all in all."*

Christ is a reality, so is the church as His body a reality, founded on life and love and the awareness thereof and built on a living/loving relationship among its members as well as with its Head.

*1 John 5:12 "He who has the Son of God has life; he who does not have the Son of God does not have life."*

Christ is the life of the body. He is also the authority as its Head. All life flows from Him. My labour or work as a member of the body should mean gain to the Head as well as to the body.

AM I A LIFE SUPPLYING MEMBER?

IF YES, HOW CAN I BECOME MORE EFFECTIVE? IF NO, HOW DO I GET STARTED?

*1 John 3:14 all who have passed from death into life- love one another.*

Such love comes from life and it should flow spontaneously which means many members working together as one. We will look at that practically with the Expo of our ministries and serving departments.

*1 Corinthians 12:17-18 if the whole body were an eye, where would be the hearing? If the whole body were hearing, where would be the smelling? But now God has set the members, each one of them, in the body just as He pleased.*

(Take comfort in the fact that He has set you there.)

When we look at the human body we see complex systems working together side by side, performing different functions for the benefit of the whole body.

- Muscular /Skeletal system - frame
- Respiratory. Lungs – mitochondria – oxygen - blood - oxygenates tissue, organs and muscles.
- Cardiovascular system - heart pumps oxygenated and mineral/vitamin rich blood
- Digestive system - nourishment, protein etc. to feed same
- Urinary system – remove waste water
- Renal system - removes waste products
- Endocrine system - hormones into the blood stream
- Lymphatic system - defends the body against infections
- Reproductive system - be fruitful and multiply

When I look at the body, I see the loveliness **of God's people, the error of division or going** it alone, the need for fellowship and community and my responsibility as a member to function under the authority of the Head, CHRIST.

*Ephesians 4:15-16 but speaking the truth in love may grow up in all things into Him who is the head [Christ] from whom the whole body, joined and knit together by what every joint supplies, according to the effective working by which every part does its share, causes growth of the body for the edifying of itself in love.*

When I recognise the make-up of the body, I see myself as a member and determine my place and distinctive function and usefulness. On the other hand, the body will suffer loss if I do not supply my God given life to it.