

# BODY LANGUAGE

## The Holy Spirit in the New Testament

1 Corinthians 12:12-31

Calvary Church of Pacific Palisades

October 23, 2011 ♦ Sunday Morning Worship

Body Language says a lot about us. Gestures, facial expressions and eyes.

Non-verbal communication style. Most of us are experts at it. Speak volumes.

In the car ... At the stop light looking at my emails, light turns green, hear a honk and look in my rear view mirror to see something like this ...

In an Elevator. When solving crime.

*"Lie To Me" story is about a team of highly trained specialists that can determine if people are telling the truth or lying by observing signals in facial micro expressions, body language and vocal tonality.*

On Honeymoon. At home Ill. Stacy and the newspaper. Didn't feel heard until attention.

Body Language says a lot when in car, riding elevator, solving crime, on honeymoon and at home ...

I WONDER what our body language says about us ... AS A CHURCH, CHRIST'S BODY. Warm/cold, Interested/disinterested, open/closed, PRIDEFUL/HUMBLE, loving or unloving.

**Please open your Bibles. 1 Corinthians 12:12-31. Page 813.**

Only Paul uses the metaphor of the Body. Uses it often ... in the letters he wrote.

**Ephesians 4:15-16 (NIV84)** <sup>15</sup> ...speaking the truth in love, we will in all things grow up into him who is the Head, that is, Christ. <sup>16</sup> From him the whole body, joined and held together by every supporting ligament, grows and builds itself up in love, as each part does its work.

Paul makes it clear the Jesus is the head who rules, we are HIS body; the body of Christ.

No better metaphor than the BODY ... Intricate expression of a miraculous working together of systems.

**vv. 12-13** 1. **We are Christ's Body** ... Body introduced in v 12 and mentioned 17 times.

**We are ONE body ... v. 12, 20** WE BELONG to Jesus, and we belong to each other. Represent Jesus as the physical manifestation of His person in the world.

How we get into the body ... BAPTIZED by SPIRIT. Born, rebirth, Spiritual baptism. Initial act, identifies. Given one SPIRIT to DRINK. As water sustains and satisfies, so the Spirit refreshes us, enlivens us, and fills us so we can pour ourselves out.

As members we BELONG to Christ and we belong to each other. Can't function apart from relationship with the Spirit and a relationship with one another.

Not a bunch of people who share 90 minutes a week in the same room; rather, people who have the same life, the same Lord, the same Spirit.

**vv. 14-17** 2. **Every member is vital** ... no one is unnecessary, everyone has something to contribute.

**Many parts ... v. 12, 20**

EVERYONE IS SIGNIFICANT, absolutely indispensable. *Every single person vitally important.*

Error 1 - May feel insignificant, like we don't have anything to offer. "If I were gifted like her".

Only a few select gifts were being valued, the miraculous, phenomenal.

Addresses those who suffer from a spiritual **INFERIORITY COMPLEX**.

Error 2 - May feel superior, like it would all fall apart if we weren't involved. **SUPERIORITY COMPLEX**

Ill. Soul Surfer Bethany Hamilton ... Helmsley, ripped off the left arm of her Malibu Barbie. Scene where she was trying to cut fruit, duck dive with her board.

How difficult life is when we don't have every member of the body, strong and functioning. Limits us.

When we cut off members of the body, we hinder it from being and doing.

### 3. **Each member is strategically gifted.**

**vv. 18-28 Arranged v. 18 and Appointed v. 28 ... this is the exact same word etheto**

Spirit decides who gets what gift. Not up to us. Not matter of our choice, we CAN'T CHOOSE OUR GIFTS.

Not because of abilities, not as reward for being good.

Like me, you may want some other gift ... I want the gift of healing, I want tell the future.

Ill. Guy who enlisted in AF, became pilot, so good made him an instructor, never got to fly into combat.

*"The Holy Spirit has placed us within Christ's body to perform the function for which He has divinely enabled us."* Spirit gives them, we use them and that requires surrender and obedience.

***JUST AS Every single person vitally important. Every single gift IS ALSO vitally important.***

What is your gift? PRAYER, HOSPITALITY, CHILDREN, GIVING, SHARING, COUNSELING, LEADING, TEACHING. Not limited to the list we have in Scripture. How and where are you using gifts?

THE SPIRIT gives us gifts so we can use them. Not so we can SIT ON THEM.

Ill. Some of you have elaborate, incredible kitchens (tens, hundreds thousands) ... rarely use them.

EVERYONE who has the Spirit has been given a specific gift the body needs to function.

RECEIVE GIFT ... Spirit's choice. Stop thinking that you want some gift you didn't get, Stop thinking that everyone else has to have the same gift you have. USE GIFT

### **vv. 29-31 4. Because no one has all the gifts, we have to depend on others.**

**One Spirit v. 13 Different gifts v. 29-31**

The answer to each one of these questions demands a NO.

Never designed to be INDEPENDENT. INTER-DEPENDENT. Better together. Every member has something I need, to complete what is lacking in me.

Ill. Susie went to Nashville last week and as I was driving to LAX to pick her up I thought "my life just doesn't work without her" ... "takes two people".

In order to live Christ's life, the spirit-filled life ... TAKES TWO, MORE THAN TWO, A WHOLE CHURCH depend on others to fill up what is lacking in us.

The Body Language of Christ body tells us that we can't represent Him on our own. While Christ is the head, every member is vital, has gifts, so we depend on others to complete what is lacking in them.

Conclusion:

**The church that is spiritually alive and healthy is ONE BODY with MANY MEMBERS, who possess gifts that are STRATEGICALLY GIVEN and who DEPEND ON EACH OTHER to complete what is lacking,**

Today, opportunity to use resources to meet needs of those who desperately need our help.