

1 Corinthians 12 in Marriage Language

⁴There are different kinds of gifts, but the same Spirit. ⁵There are different kinds of service, but the same Lord. ⁶There are different kinds of working, but the same God works all of them in all men.

⁷Now to each one the manifestation of the Spirit is given for the common good. ⁸To one there is given through the Spirit the message of wisdom, to another the message of knowledge by means of the same Spirit, ⁹to another faith by the same Spirit, to another gifts of healing by that one Spirit, ¹⁰to another miraculous powers, to another prophecy, to another distinguishing between spirits, to another speaking in different kinds of tongues, and to still another the interpretation of tongues. ¹¹All these are the work of one and the same Spirit, and he gives them to each one, just as he determines.

¹²The body is a unit, though it is made up of many parts; and though all its parts are many, they form one body. So it is with Christ. ¹³For we were all baptized by one Spirit into one body—whether Jews or Greeks, slave or free—and we were all given the one Spirit to drink.

¹⁴Now the body is not made up of one part but of many. ¹⁵If the foot should say, "Because I am not a hand, I do not belong to the body," it would not for that reason cease to be part of the body. ¹⁶And if the ear should say, "Because I am not an eye, I do not belong to the body," it would not for that reason cease to be part of the body. ¹⁷If the whole body were an eye, where would the sense of hearing be? If the whole body were an ear, where would the sense of smell be? ¹⁸But in

⁴There are different kinds of **abilities**, but the same Spirit. ⁵There are different kinds of **sensitivities**, but the same Lord. ⁶There are different **strengths and weaknesses**, but the same God works **with all of them in every marriage**.

⁷Now to each **spouse** the manifestation of the Spirit is given for the common good. ⁸To one there is given **certain gifts, to another is given other gifts. To one is given certain perspectives and sensitivities. To the other, different perspectives and sensitivities are given. One spouse has particular strengths and struggles while the other spouse has different strengths and struggles.** ¹¹All these are the work of one and the same Spirit, and he gives them to each one, just as he determines.

¹²**A marriage** is a unit, though it is made up of **two** parts; and though **it has two** parts, they form one **marriage. That's how it is with Christ.** ¹³For we were **each** baptized by one Spirit into one **marriage**, and we were **each** given the one Spirit to drink.

¹⁴Now **a marriage** is not made up of **similarities** but of **differences.** ¹⁵If the **wife** should say, "Because I am not **my husband**, I do not belong to **this marriage**," **she** would not for that reason cease to be part of the **marriage.** ¹⁶And if the **husband** should say, "Because I am not **my wife**, I do not belong to **this marriage**," **he** would not for that reason cease to be part of the **marriage.** ¹⁷If the whole **marriage** were **the wife, how could the**

fact God has arranged the parts in the body, every one of them, just as he wanted them to be. ¹⁹If they were all one part, where would the body be? ²⁰As it is, there are many parts, but one body.

²¹The eye cannot say to the hand, "I don't need you!" And the head cannot say to the feet, "I don't need you!"

²²On the contrary, those parts of the body that seem to be weaker are indispensable, ²³and the parts that we think are less honorable we treat with special honor. And the parts that are unpresentable are treated with special modesty, ²⁴while our presentable parts need no special treatment. But God has combined the members of the body and has given greater honor to the parts that lacked it, ²⁵so that there should be no division in the body, but that its parts should have equal concern for each other. ²⁶If one part suffers, every part suffers with it; if one part is honored, every part rejoices with it.

²⁷Now you are the body of Christ, and each one of you is a part of it. ²⁸And in the church God has appointed first of all apostles, second prophets, third teachers, then workers of miracles, also those having gifts of healing, those able to help others, those with gifts of administration, and those speaking in different kinds of tongues.

²⁹Are all apostles? Are all prophets? Are all teachers? Do all work miracles? ³⁰Do all have gifts of healing? Do all speak in tongues? Do all interpret? ³¹But eagerly desire the greater gifts.

And now I will show you the most excellent way.

husband contribute his unique gifts? If the whole marriage were the husband, how could the wife contribute her unique gifts? ¹⁸But in fact God has arranged **each of us in the marriage**, just as he wanted **us** to be. ¹⁹If **we** were all **the same**, where would the **marriage** be? ²⁰As it is, there are many **differences**, but one **marriage**.

²¹The **husband** cannot say to the **wife**, "I don't need you!" And the **wife** cannot say to the **husband**, "I don't need you!" ²²On the contrary, **our differences** are indispensable, ²³and **our most troublesome differences make the greatest contributions to our oneness**. God has combined **all our differences in the marriage** and has given greater honor to the **ways we are diverse**, ²⁵so that there should be no division in the **marriage**, but that **both spouses** should have equal concern for each other. ²⁶If **the wife** suffers, **the husband** suffers with **her**; if **the husband** is honored, **the wife** rejoices with **him**.

²⁷Now **yours is a marriage in Christ**, and each one of you is a part of it.

²⁸And in **this marriage** God has appointed **different roles and gifts and strengths and perspectives** ²⁹**We don't all see things the same way, do things the same way, approach things the same way. But sameness is not the goal. Intimacy is.** ³¹**That is why husbands and wives should** eagerly desire the **higher way—a way that transcends differences**.

And now I will show you the most excellent way.