

June, 3, 2023

## **The Way The Body Should Be**

For several weeks now I have been focused not only on the oneness of God but on the oneness as believers we are to be exhibiting. How the once secret plan of Adonai pertaining to the relationship of Jews and Gentiles is to bring forth reconciliation through one community.

There is a slogan in Maine. "The way life should be" and it conveys that when you are in Maine, this state promotes how you should be living to your fullest.

Sha'ul on several occasions conveys the oneness of the body of believers. It would appear that there was an issue within many communities about unity and working together as one.

Sha'ul talked about the body in Romans, Ephesians and his first letter to believers at Corinth.

Each letter to a community was intended to address matters that need to be recognized or encouragement when warranted. To see Sha'ul reference one body on several occasions conveys an issue, whether you call it systemic or merely a matter of growing pains doesn't matter. The issue was this new creation of Adonai, Jew and Gentile coming together was full of challenges that originated from within.

Corinth was rife with challenges for Sha'ul's first letter dealt with so many issues from coming together for a meal, sexual immorality and idolatry to name a few. Thus to have the challenge of coming together as one and working together as one was the challenge. Was there envy and factionalism? Competition?

Consider the challenge when it came to the Gifts of the Spirit...

**1Co 12:1** But, brothers, I do not want you to go on being ignorant about the things of the Spirit.

**1Co 12:2** You know that when you were pagans, no matter how you felt you were being led, you were being led astray to idols, which can't speak at all.

**1Co 12:3** Therefore, I want to make it clear to you that no one speaking by the Spirit of God ever says, "Yeshua is cursed!" and no one can say, "Yeshua is Lord," except by the Ruach HaKodesh.

**1Co 12:4** Now there are different kinds of gifts, but the same Spirit gives them.

**1Co 12:5** Also there are different ways of serving, but it is the same Lord being served.

**1Co 12:6** And there are different modes of working, but it is the same God working them all in everyone.

**1Co 12:7** Moreover, to each person is given the particular manifestation of the Spirit that will be for the common good.

**1Co 12:8** To one, through the Spirit, is given a word of wisdom; to another, a word of knowledge, in accordance with the same Spirit;

**1Co 12:9** to another, faith, by the same Spirit; and to another, gifts of healing, by the one Spirit;

**1Co 12:10** to another, the working of miracles; to another, prophecy; to another, the ability to judge between spirits; to another, the ability to speak in different kinds of tongues; and to yet another, the ability to interpret tongues.

**1Co 12:11** One and the same Spirit is at work in all these things, distributing to each person as he chooses.

This concept of oneness is foreign to the world where there were many gods. A god for every element, every region and every purpose. That there was one God and this one God has a Spirit and equips believers, empowers them for His service is a foreign concept to the world.

Even today there are challenges within the body of Messiah. Some believe, some don't, some believe it was for a time but not today.

Does this convey any aspect of what Sha'ul is trying show believers, hence he needs to address the issues and ultimately correct the division within the community.

How can the body of Messiah truly function in the fullness of what Adonai has given it if there is not a unified understand present?

**1Co 12:12** For just as the body is one but has many parts; and all the parts of the body, though many, constitute one body; so it is with the Messiah.

**1Co 12:13** For it was by one Spirit that we were all immersed into one body, whether Jews or Gentiles, slaves or free; and we were all given the one Spirit to drink.

**1Co 12:14** For indeed the body is not one part but many.

**1Co 12:15** If the foot says, "I'm not a hand, so I'm not part of the body," that doesn't make it stop being part of the body.

**1Co 12:16** And if the ear says, "I'm not an eye, so I'm not part of the body," that doesn't make it stop being part of the body.

**1Co 12:17** If the whole body were an eye, how could it hear? If it were all hearing, how could it smell?

**1Co 12:18** But as it is, God arranged each of the parts in the body exactly as he wanted them.

**1Co 12:19** Now if they were all just one part, where would the body be?

**1Co 12:20** But as it is, there are indeed many parts, yet just one body.

**1Co 12:21** So the eye cannot say to the hand, "I don't need you"; or the head to the feet, "I don't need you."

**1Co 12:22** On the contrary, the parts of the body that seem to be less important turn out to be all the more necessary;

**1Co 12:23** and upon body parts which we consider less dignified we bestow greater dignity; and the parts that aren't attractive are the ones we make as attractive as we can,

**1Co 12:24** while our attractive parts have no need for such treatment. Indeed, God has put the body together in such a way that he gives greater dignity to the parts that lack it,

**1Co 12:25** so that there will be no disagreements within the body, but rather all the parts will be equally concerned for all the others.

**1Co 12:26** Thus if one part suffers, all the parts suffer with it; and if one part is honored, all the parts share its happiness.

**1Co 12:27** Now you together constitute the body of the Messiah, and individually you are parts of it.

**1Co 12:28** And God has placed in the Messianic Community first, emissaries; second, prophets; third, teachers; then those who work miracles; then those with gifts of healing; those with ability to help; those skilled in administration; and those who speak in various tongues.

**1Co 12:29** Not all are emissaries, are they? Not all are prophets, are they? or teachers? or miracle-workers?

**1Co 12:30** Not all have gifts of healing, not all speak in tongues, not all interpret, do they?

**1Co 12:31** Eagerly seek the better gifts. But now I will show you the best way of all.

There were challenges in Rome amongst believers...

**Rom 12:1** I exhort you, therefore, brothers, in view of God's mercies, to offer yourselves as a sacrifice, living and set apart for God. This will please him; it is the logical "Temple worship" for you.

**Rom 12:2** In other words, do not let yourselves be conformed to the standards of the `olam hazeh. Instead, keep letting yourselves be transformed by the renewing of your minds; so that you will know what God wants and will agree

that what he wants is good, satisfying and able to succeed.

### **Gifts of Grace**

**Rom 12:3** For I am telling every single one of you, through the grace that has been given to me, not to have exaggerated ideas about your own importance. Instead, develop a sober estimate of yourself based on the standard which God has given to each of you, namely, trust.

**Rom 12:4** For just as there are many parts that compose one body, but the parts don't all have the same function;

**Rom 12:5** so there are many of us, and in union with the Messiah we comprise one body, with each of us belonging to the others.

**Rom 12:6** But we have gifts that differ and which are meant to be used according to the grace that has been given to us. If your gift is prophecy, use it to the extent of your trust;

**Rom 12:7** if it is serving, use it to serve; if you are a teacher, use your gift in teaching;

**Rom 12:8** if you are a counselor, use your gift to comfort and exhort; if you are someone who gives, do it simply and generously; if you are in a position of leadership, lead with diligence and zeal; if you are one who does acts of mercy, do them cheerfully.

Sha'ul emphasizes the same thing to believers in Ephesus...

**Eph 4:4** There is one body and one Spirit, just as when you were called you were called to one hope.

**Eph 4:5** And there is one Lord, one trust, one immersion,

**Eph 4:6** and one God, the Father of all, who rules over all, works through all and is in all.

**Eph 4:7** Each one of us, however, has been given grace to be measured by the Messiah's bounty.

