

Title: **NO SCHISM IN THE BODY**

Text: **1 Corinthians 12**

**(I) THE CAUSES OF SCHISM IN THE BODY**

**1. The problem of spiritual immaturity**

*"If the foot should say, 'Because I am not a hand, I am not of the body,' is it therefore not of the body?" 1 Corinthians 12:15*

**2. The problem of wrong focus**

*"If the whole body was an eye, where would be the hearing?" 1 Corinthians 12:17*

**3. The problem of a lack of appreciation of each other**

*"And the eye cannot say to the hand, 'I have no need of you'..." 1 Corinthians 12:21*

**(II) THE COMPREHENSION OF GOD'S PLAN OF THE BODY PREVENTS SCHISM**

**1. God's plan of unity and diversity in the body**

a) Conceptual understanding

*"For as the body is one and has many members..." 1 Corinthians 12:12*

b) Confirmed fact

*"For in fact the body is not one member but many..." 1 Corinthians 12:14*

c) Conviction

*"But now indeed there are many members, yet one body..." 1 Corinthians 12:20*

**2. God's prerogative in setting of members in the body**

*"But now God has set the members each one of them, in the body, just as He pleased." 1 Corinthians 12:18*

### **3. God's compose the body to have no schism**

*"But God composed the body...that there should be no schism in the body." 1 Corinthians 12:24*

a) The necessity of each part

*"No, much rather, those members of the body which seem to be weaker are necessary." 1 Corinthians 12:22*

b) The honouring of lesser parts

*"Having given greater honor to that part which lacks it..." 1 Corinthians 12:24*

c) The same care for each member

*"But that the members should have the same care for one another. And if one member suffers, all the members suffer with it; or if one member is honoured, all members rejoice with it." 1 Corinthians 12:25-26*

## **(III) THE PRACTICE OF ONENESS IN THE BODY OF CHRIST**

### **1. Commitment to be one in diversity**

*"Now you are the body of Christ, and members individually." 1 Corinthians 12:27*

### **2. Seeing the spiritually gifted as God's loving gift to the church**

*"And God has appointed these in the Church: first apostles, second prophets, third teachers, after that miracles, then gifts of healings, helps, administrations, varieties of tongues." 1 Corinthians 12:27*

a) The apostle and prophets had a part to play in the Church

b) They played out their roles well.

c) The focus is not on the gift but the person.

### **3. Having a proper practice of spiritual gifts**

*"Are all apostles? Are all prophets? Are all teachers? Are all workers of miracles? Do all have gifts of healings? Do all speak with tongues? Do all interpret?" 1 Corinthians 12:29-30*

a) Not all would hold positions in Church

b) Not all would have the same gifts

**4. Practising love in the body of Christ**

*“And yet I show you a more excellent way.” 1 Corinthians 12:31*

*“Love never fails...” 1 Corinthians 13:8*