

Without members there would be no human **body**; it would be a shapeless lump of flesh (19). The lump would have unity, but no variety of functions. It is the existence and interaction of the various members that give the body meaning. Thus Paul comes back to this theme: **But now are ye many members, yet but one body** (20).¹

2. There are 3 classes of the parts of the body which seem to be inferior, but are still necessary to it's function. What are they? (I Corinthians 12: 22,23).

(1) _____

(2) _____

(3) _____

Those members of the body which seem to be more **feeble**, which seem weakest and least important, are necessary.

Those members of the body which we think are **less honorable** and **uncomely** (inelegant; lacking in beauty), those parts that are unsuitable for exposure, upon these we bestow more abundant honor and comeliness (elegance and grace).

No member of the body, seen or unseen is unimportant. God has created the bodily organs so that tempered together, they work in harmony and are interdependent of each other.

The body is structured or tempered together ac-

1. Beacon Bible Commentary, Volume 8, p. 434.

according to God's will.

3. What reason does Paul give in I Corinthians 12:25,26 for God tempering the body together with all classes of the body being treated so as to be equal? _____

THE UNIFIED, YET DIVERSIFIED CHURCH (I Corinthians 12:27-31)

Since the Church is in reality a spiritual organism, individuals are members in particular. Each of them belongs to the body. Therefore none can rightfully claim to be of greater importance than the others, nor should anyone regard others as inferior. ¹

1. Name the offices and gifts listed in I Corinthians 12:28. _____

2. In I Corinthians 12:31, Paul says, *and yet shew I unto you a more excellent way*. To what is he referring? (I Corinthians 13:13) _____

1. Beacon Bible Commentary, V. 8, p. 435.