

1 Corinthians 12:3b-13^{iv}

No one can say “Jesus is Lord” except by the Holy Spirit. Now there are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit; and there are varieties of services, but the same Lord; and there are varieties of activities, but it is the same God who activates all of them in everyone. To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good. To one is given through the Spirit the utterance of wisdom, and to another the utterance of knowledge according to the same Spirit, to another faith by the same Spirit, to another gifts of healing by the one Spirit, to another the working of miracles, to another prophecy, to another the discernment of spirits, to another various kinds of tongues, to another the interpretation of tongues. All these are activated by one and the same Spirit, who allots to each one individually just as the Spirit chooses. For just as the body is one and has many members, and all the members of the body, though many, are one body, so it is with Christ. For in the one Spirit we were all baptized into one body —Jews or Greeks, slaves or free— and we were all made to drink of one Spirit.

^{iv} About the Second Reading: 1 Corinthians 12:3b-13

The Corinthian community was torn by dissension over the characteristics, distribution and use of “spiritual gifts” (12:1 *Now concerning spiritual gifts, brothers and sisters, I do not want you to be uninformed.*). Paul emphasizes that these are gifts of grace to all, not just the private possession of certain people. He points out the triune operation of God in these gifts: the Holy Spirit as the giver, Jesus as the One to whom service is given, and God the Father as the One at work in the gift.

The gifts are complementary and meant for the common good. Every gift has an important place in the life of the community. The list of gifts is not exhaustive, for other lists differ ([12:28-30](#); [Romans 12:6-8](#)). The purpose of all the gifts is to create not division but unity in diversity. Paul illustrates this by using the image of the body to show the Corinthians the interdependence of all in the Christian community.
