

*"Now ye are the Body of Christ, and members in particular. And God hath set some in the church, first apostles, secondarily prophets, thirdly teachers, after that miracles, then gifts of healings, helps, governments, diversities of tongues. Are all apostles? Are all prophets? Are all teachers? Are all workers of miracles? Have all the gifts of healing? Do all speak with tongues? Do all interpret? But covet earnestly the best gifts: and yet show I unto you a more excellent way. Though I speak with the tongues of men and of angels, and have not charity, I am become as sounding brass, or a tinkling cymbal." 1 Corinthians 12:27-13:1 KJV*



A symphony has harps and cymbals, but cymbals without an orchestra are just annoying. Just as the body has parts that differ, so does the Body of Christ, the Church. *"For the body is not one member, but many."* Each believer is a NECESSARY member of the Body of Christ, in each local assembly. *"If the foot shall say, 'Because I am not the hand, I am not of the body;' is it therefore not of the body? And if the ear shall say, 'Because I am not the eye, I am not of the body;' is it therefore not of the body? If the whole body were an eye, where were the hearing? If the whole were hearing, where were the smelling? The eye cannot say unto the hand, 'I have no need of thee:' nor again the head to the feet, 'I have no need of you.' Nay, much more those members of the body, which seem to be more feeble, ARE NECESSARY."* Some Assemblies are missing members, because someone made them feel useless! Babies do nothing and would die if care were withheld, yet even diaper duty is part of loving an infant! Each believer is a particular gift from God to benefit the Church. Notice the order of the gifts. God's Word states several times that there are only twelve apostles. Prophets proclaim the Truth of God's Word, whether past, present, or future. Teaching comes before miracles or healing, and help comes before government. Many desire tongues, but they are the very last. Desire the BEST gifts. Proclaiming Truth is second on the list, and teaching it is third. We are not to glory in gifts, but *"a more excellent way"* is to *"have charity...love one to another. By this shall all men know that ye are my disciples."* What is love? Words or deeds? Which body part would you like to lose? The nose does no walking, but without it, how would you know to flee the fire? The eye only sits and rotates, but without it, you could not know which direction to flee. Each believer is just that important to the Assembly, and any assembly is dead without Christ as its Head. If nothing else, the feebler members are there to allow Christ's love and affection through His Body towards them.

Members of the Body we,  
Ears to hear, or eyes to see,  
Each, content with what may be,  
Knit as one, harmoniously. -CGP

Assemblies divide when there's a thumb trying to be a nose, or an ear trying to be a leg. Ability in the Assembly is determined by God through the gifts given. *"It is GOD which worketh in you, both to will and to do of HIS good pleasure."* The ministry of Helps is probably one of the most vital and most neglected. God *"gave some, apostles; and some, prophets; and some, evangelists; and some, pastors and teachers; for the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying (instruction/encouragement) of the Body of Christ."* Make sure you are *"walking in the Light,"* yourself, then if you become aware of something that needs doing, *"do it with thy might AS UNTO THE LORD."* Do your best. God will do the rest. Even cymbals have a place in the symphony, but they must be part of the symphony to make a difference! Genuine affection encourages any heart!

*"Let nothing be done through strife or vainglory; but in lowliness of mind let each esteem other better than themselves." Philippians 2:3 KJV*