

The Framework of Unity

1 Cor 12:27-30 - *Now you are the body of Christ, and each one of you is a part of it. 28 And in the church God has appointed first of all apostles, second prophets, third teachers, then workers of miracles, also those having gifts of healing, those able to help others, those with gifts of administration, and those speaking in different kinds of tongues. 29 Are all apostles? Are all prophets? Are all teachers? Do all work miracles? 30 Do all have gifts of healing? Do all speak in tongues? Do all interpret?*

- 1. The Body of Christ is about people working together**
- 2. Our focus must be on the *function* and *presence* of the gifts, not the office of who holds them.**

1 Cor 12:31 - *But eagerly desire the greater gifts. And now I will show you the most excellent way.*

1 Cor 13:1-3 - *If I speak in the tongues of men and of angels, but have not love, I am only a resounding gong or a clanging cymbal. 2 If I have the gift of prophecy and can fathom all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have a faith that can move mountains, but have not love, I am nothing. 3 If I give all I possess to the poor and surrender my body to the flames, but have not love, I gain nothing.*

- 3. Our desire to be used of God flows from the act of loving people.**

1 Cor 14:1 - *Follow the way of love and eagerly desire spiritual gifts, especially the gift of prophecy.*

- 4. Community is built-up by putting others above ourselves**
- 5. Love takes us to a place, where others can be encouraged.**