



**Trait 23- Unsundered Potential
Day 1**

Read 1 Corinthians 12:1-7

In this chapter, Paul is beginning a discussion about the purpose of the many parts within the Body of Christ. It is important for believers to understand that we are all equal in Christ and every Christian has a role to play within the Body of Christ.

- 1.) Why did Paul start out in verse 12:2-3 by qualifying who was indeed in the body of Christ? Do we still have a problem with these influences in the Church today?
- 2.) Do you see how damaging divisions in the Church are and why they hinder our ability to minister within the Body of Christ?

Read Romans 12:1-2

Paul is illustrating once again that we were purchased at a very high price and our bodies are no longer our own but there is still the matter of free will. It is only through knowledge of God's sacrifice for us that we in turn sacrifice ourselves (bodies) to be used by God for God's purpose in our lives. Through our efforts in the world we often find ourselves and God's will for us to be at odds, it is important for us to stop, pray and listen for God to lead us. Then and only then will we hear the will God has for our lives!

- 3.) Have you surrendered your body as a living and Holy sacrifice to the Lord's will?
- 4.) What does **Romans 12:1** mean when it says this is your spiritual worship? (Note: This is worded as a "true way to worship" in other translations which might be a little clearer wording.)



**Trait 23- Unsundered Potential
Day 2**

Read 1 Corinthians 12:4-6 and Romans 12:3-5

These scriptures tell us that regardless of what our gift, service or activity within the Body of Christ we should remain humble in our understanding. All of these are given to us by the Lord and we all serve the same Lord to bring glory to His name. Paul admonishes us to not get arrogant and think that we are more important than we really are and look down on others and their service. See also 1 Corinthians 12:14-22

- 1.) Does the use of the body analogy given by Paul give a clear understanding to the value of different parts of the physical body and allow you to relate this idea to the spiritual Body of Christ?

- 2.) What gift, service or activity has God given you to use within the Body of Christ?

- 3.) Do you allow God to use you in that area?

Read Mark 9:33-35 and Luke 9:46

Even the disciples in the presence of Jesus struggled to gain position within the Body of Christ.

- 4.) What did Jesus indicate was the most honorable place to be, first or last?

- 5.) Do you struggle with this concept?

Only when we understand that only in love, serving each other within the Body of Christ as the Lord served us can we truly discover and fulfill the will of God in our lives! It is important that we always build each other up, support each other and remain of one mind, the mind of Christ.



**Trait 23- Unsundered Potential
Day 3**

Read 1 Corinthians 12:27-31

Paul continues the body analogy but switches now to the spiritual Body of Christ and gives some examples of gifts that are found among believers. He is also furthering the idea that it is very important that the body have the proper variety of these gifts and that it moves in all of these gifts as given by the Holy Spirit.

Here are the spiritual gifts that Paul lists.

Apostle

Prophet

Teacher

Miracle workers

Helpers

Leaders

Speaking in Tongues

- 1.) Can you identify which gift you move in most of the time?

- 2.) Can you exhibit more than one gift at a time or over the course of your Christian walk?

- 3.) Is it wrong to desire a certain gift? (Hint: 1 Cor 12:31)

- 4.) After reading the scriptures above is it clear why Paul says that the Body must have a balance of these gifts?

1 Cor 12 ends with Paul making this statement “And I will show you a still more excellent way.”

Read 1 Cor 13:1

- 5.) What was the “more excellent way” that Paul was telling us that is the key to working together within the Body of Christ?



**Trait 23- Unsundered Potential
Day 4**

Read Acts 6:1-6

As we can see in these scriptures the Church has many needs. As the Church was growing it became crucial that the Body of Christ have people that could minister to the Body in other ways to allow the Disciples time to preach the Word of God and not neglect that crucial duty due to demands of a physical nature. We see in these scriptures the calling of the first Deacons.

We can expand our description of the gifts into three main ideas.

Spiritual Gifts - Given by Grace through the Holy Spirit.

Services - Helper ministries that allow other ministries to move forward.

Activities - Energies or effort. Some move more freely in the use of their gifts and some need more encouragement but this reflects the work we do within the Body of Christ.

- 1.) Do you have a ministry that you are currently working in utilizing your gift(s)?

- 2.) Do you find yourself resisting a call from the Spirit to move in a certain gift or ministry?

- 3.) Using the above descriptions can you find areas that you fit in that you are not in currently?



**Trait 23- Unsundered Potential
Day 5**

1 John 4:1 Beloved, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits to see whether they are from God, for many false prophets have gone out into the world. (ESV)

- 1.) Do you ever feel called in something but seriously wonder if it is the Holy Spirit doing the calling?

- 2.) How do we test the spirit to ensure it is the Spirit doing the calling?

In seeking our calling it is easy to follow our passions rather than the will of God in our lives. It is important to remember that if it is from the Holy Spirit it will always bring Glory to God and will benefit all within the Body of Christ. Sometimes we are not the best judge of what our gifts might be. Diligently seeking in prayer and talking to fellow believers about how they see you will help in finding where we fit into the Body of Christ and what our ministry should be.

- 3.) Have you ever had a fellow believer tell you that “that must be your calling”?

- 4.) Are you open to others when they tell you you are really good at a particular ministry?