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The Baptism of the Holy Spirit

“For as the body is one, and hath many members, and all the members of that one body, being many, are one body: so also is Christ. For by one Spirit are we all baptized into one body, whether we be Jews or Gentiles, whether we be bond or free; and have been all made to drink into one Spirit”

(1 Co 12:12-13)

Corinth was a wicked city, where Paul gave a longer-than-usual stay of 18 months. After departing to Ephesus, he received word of many troubles and questions, one concerning the Spirit's work.

We may say, God's chosen ones have a union with Christ by purpose and election from before the world's foundation, by redemption and justification from the cross, and by the Spirit's baptism from calling and regeneration. This baptizing act is the Spirit placing the chosen and redeemed ones in the body of Christ.

The inclusiveness of this baptism is apparent. Paul used the diversity and unity of the human body to illustrate this truth. It's not an elite few who are baptized by the Spirit but all who are spiritually awakened and effectually called by the gospel. An unattached “member” of the body of Christ is impossible. Furthermore, as a mentally-healthy person cares for his body, a spiritually-healthy person cares for the members of Christ's body, showing genuine love, earnest respect and gladness in service.

Baptism isn't an experience to be sought but a fact to bring comfort. Dip or immerse is the meaning of “baptize”. The Spirit immerses the newly awakened soul in Christ and His body, the church. His baptism can neither be undone nor redone. It's a singular and sovereign work.

No more transforming thought can be received into the mind, than for one to know he/she is presently indwelt by the Holy Spirit and is a member of Christ's body.

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November 21, 2013