



## Responsive Reading

The body is a unit, though it is made up of many parts; and though all its parts are many, they form one Body. So it is with Christ.

**For we were baptized by one Spirit into one Body –whether sighted or sightless, hearing or hearing impaired, mobile or immobile, genius or slow-learners-and we were given the one Spirit to drink.**

Now the body is not made up of one part, but many.

**If the person using a wheelchair said, “Because I am not able to walk, and cannot get into the Church building, therefore I am not a member of the Body”, he would not for that reason cease to be a part of the Body.**

And if a person with Downs Syndrome should say, “I do not fit into the Church’s educational program, therefore I do not belong to the Church”, she would not for that reason cease to be part of the Body.

**If the whole Body were teachers, who would be the learners? If the whole Church were helpers, whom would they help?**

As it is, God has arranged the kinds of people in a church, each one of them as He chose them to be. If all were one kind, where would the beauty be?

**As it is there are people with many types of abilities, but one Church.**

The person who can read the creeds cannot say to the non-readers, “We really don’t need you”. Nor can persons who are emotionally well say to the emotionally ill, “We don’t need you”.

**On the contrary, the members of the Church that seem to be weaker are indispensable, and those who seem to be disabled we serve with greater devotion. And those who are deformed and disfigured we treat with a special modesty which those who are attractive do not need.**

But God has combined the members of the Church and has given a special grace to those who have disabilities so that there should be no division in the Body, but that its parts should have equal concern for each other.

**All: If one part has special need, every part feels that need with it. If one part receives special care, every part rejoices with it.**



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