

The Corinthians Learn to Harmonize Vital Ministries in the Body

About 5 minutes, applies 1 Cor. 12 – 13

Participants (*No need to memorize lines; the aim is simply to relive sacred events, not to perform*)

Disciplemaker

Mercymaker

Harmonizer

Specializer

Prompter Shout a brief line and *Echoes* repeat it.

Echoes Children and all adults who want to take part. *Echoes* need no script.

Disciplemaker Well, here I am, you lucky people! My name is Disciplemaker.
I am taking Jesus to those pagans over there. (*Point to folk farthest away.*)
To make disciples is our Lord's **Great Commission**.

Prompter & Echoes **Great Commission!**

Mercymaker And my name is Mercymaker. I meet physical needs.
I will go help those hungry pagans. (*Point to the neglected people.*)
Love in action is our Lord's **Great Commandment!**

Prompter & Echoes **Great Commandment!**

Disciplemaker No! We put salvation in Jesus before all else, if we really love people, so my
Great Commission work surpasses your **Great Commandment** work!

Mercyworker No! If they need food, they will not listen to the Gospel; feed them first.
Great Commandment work is more vital than **Great Commission** work.

Harmonizer Hey, you two! Stop sparring! My name is Harmonizer;
I will blend your ministries.

Prompter & Echoes Blend your ministries!

Disciplemaker So how do we harmonize such fundamentally different tasks?

Harmonizer If we love each other, we help the others use their different spiritual gifts.
Love does not compete; we do not let our own gift overshadow others' gifts.
We teachers often abuse our gift, letting it eclipse others' vital gifts. Take 1st
Corinthians chapters 12 and 13 together, as Paul obviously meant them to
be, and you will see what I mean.

Prompter & Echoes Help us understand this!

Harmonizer Chapter 12 says to work together as a body under the one Head Jesus.
Let the Holy Spirit keep the body's joints well-oiled, working as one.
Chapter 13 says only sacrificial *agape* love enables us to let Him do this.

Mercymaker But why must we blend our different gift-based ministries? Isn't it more
efficient to specialize by having them be separate programs?

- Harmonizer Only in emergencies. Let me illustrate' when Elijah hid in the wilderness from wicked Queen Jezebel, how did God keep him from starving?
- Prompter & Echoes Ravens came with food!
- Harmonizer Now, pretend that those people over there need both food and Jesus. (*Point to the people at the far side of the room.*)
Mercymaker and Disciplemaker, you are ravens. Hold out your wings.
- Mercymaker & Disciplemaker
 (*Hold out your arms.*)
- Prompter & Echoes Tweet! Tweet!
- Harmonizer Your left wings are Jesus' *Great Commandment*, to love and show mercy. Your right wings are His *Great Commission* witness and make disciples. Now, fly to those needy people together; take them both food and Gospel.
- Specializer (*Shout, as you run and grab the birds*) Stop! Stop! Wait! I am *Specializer*. I will make your work more efficient by specializing. Mercyworker, I will clip your right wing, so you can focus only on mercy. (*Pretend to clip the right arm's feathers with large clippers.*)
- Mercymaker (*Drop your right, clipped wing.*) Ah! Now I can specialize with greater efficiency! (*Flapping your one good wing, fly in a small circle once.*)
Oh! Oh! I'm going in circles!
- Specializer I do the same for you, Disciplemaker. (*Pretend to clip the left wing.*)
Focus only on your specialty!
- Disciplemaker (*Drop your left, clipped wing, and fly in a small circle once.*)
- Harmonizer Actually, all of us have clipped wings; no one has all the gifts to do all the gift-based ministries. Disciplemaker and Mercyworker, join forces!
- Mercymaker & Disciplemaker
 (*Join weak arms, "flap" strong arms, and "fly" to the neglected folk.*)
- Harmonizer Evangelism and mercy work reinforce each other if done in harmony.
- Mercymaker I see! If we join mercy with church planting, then both will spread right along with a growing movement.
- Disciplemaker Yes! Church planting is more powerful if we do it as Jesus' apostles did; they combined healing and mercy work with evangelism.
- Mercymaker & Disciplemaker
 (*Hug*)