



Lessons From an Orchestra (1 Cor. 12:18-27)

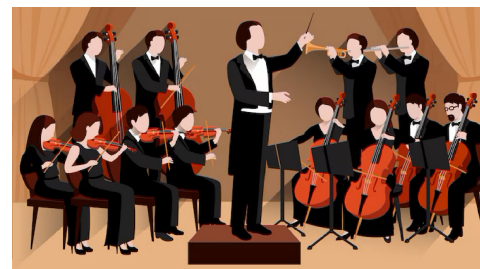
To illustrate the functioning of the local assembly of believers God uses the wonderful analogy of the human body (1 Corinthians 12). The many and varied members of that one body work together in harmony under the Headship of Jesus Christ: "the whole body fitly joined together and compacted by that which every joint supplieth, according to the effectual working in the measure of every part, maketh increase of the body unto the edifying of itself in love" (Eph. 4:16).

Another illustration that could be used is that of a **symphony orchestra**. Every musician has an important part to play. The skilled flutist may have no idea how to play the violin, but each contributes with his own instrument, and they all harmonize together to create a splendid sound. Every member is important, and if one instrument is out of tune or out of rhythm or plays the wrong notes, it will affect the whole and the result will be an unpleasant cacophony.

The main focus of all the musicians is upon the conductor. He must be followed at all times. No one is permitted to do their own thing; each one must be subject to the conductor. He is the leader. **When the musicians are in harmony with him, they will be in harmony with each other.** The application to Christ, the Head of the body, is obvious.

All members of the orchestra have a document to guide them: **the musical score**. It tells them the notes they must play, and other notations to guide in tempo and dynamics. The musician must not vary from the musical text and its specific directions. The clarinet player does not have the freedom to ad lib and to play different notes. God has given to each believer His Word (John 17:14) to lead us so that we will play beautifully and honor our Conductor.

George Zeller, www.middletownbiblechurch.org



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