

**One Body with Many Parts  
One Nation, Many People**

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1Cor 12:12-27

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Synopsis: 3 issues on my mind:

1. Independence Day next Wed: reflect on freedom
2. Two weeks in Eastern Europe: reflect on freedom and faith
3. 1Cor 12: Paul reflects on spirituality and freedom

I.

**What is Freedom/Spiritual?**

1Cor 12:3 “No one can say ‘Jesus is Lord’ except by the Holy Spirit”

1Cor 12-14: Spirituality and Freedom: Their question

See 7:1; 8:1; 12:1

Essence of Freedom/Spirituality has to do with lordship

READ 12:1-3 = Spirit is a lordship issue, rule issue

Eastern Europe: Two pictures of lordship

-Mauthausen: concentration camp = uniformity

Where state is lord

-Czech Republic: Lennon Wall = license

Where everyone is lord

II.

**How Does Freedom/Spiritual Look on Earth?**

1Cor 12:4 “Now there are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit”

Mauthausen:

12 miles from Linz, Austria

1938 began with German Anschluss

Liberated May 1945

Category III camp (harshest)

Goal: “extermination through work”

Activities: 12 hours daily in quarry, feed every 3 days, average life

span 6 months

Details:

Death stairs = 186 crooked stairs  
Carried 100 lbs stones up  
Races to death  
Parachute wall  
Gas chambers, 120 at a time  
Commandant Franz Ziereis, son shoots inmates  
Dead from 1938-45 = between 120-320K

Story: Soviet escape Feb 1943

-group escapes  
-2 survive  
-Soviet General, frozen into a statue, now granite statue

\*Mauthausen = Where state is lord, reflection on freedom

### Lennon Wall in Prague

-Czech Republic free in 1989  
-Split from Slovakia in 1993  
-Prior a communist country  
-John Lennon dies in 1980  
-Night after night graffiti: "Imagine" "All You Need is Love"  
-Painted over daily, graffiti every night  
-Now a memorial to freedom become license

Czech Republic = most atheistic of all European countries

\*Lennon Wall = where everyone is lord, reflection on freedom

### III.

#### **Let Me Paint You a Picture**

1Cor 12:27 "Now you all are the Body of Christ, and individually members of it"

This Independence Day, where are we headed as country?

Mauthausen, Lennon Wall, or somewhere else

Paul offers an alternative, neither state nor individual

Variety in Unity (neither uniformity nor license)

Uniformity: do state thing (Nazi)

License: do my thing (Czech)

Neither is biblical: variety in unity

\*Biblical expression of freedom/spirituality is people using gifts for each other

Asclepius temple in Corinth

Body parts in Corinth Museum

We cannot change the state, all individuals; we can change the way we relate to one another, offering an alternative to uniformity or license.

What would it look like for you and me to exercise our gifts in the Body of Christ for each other?

Table is symbol of variety and unity