

## **Antagonism**

### **Definition of “Antagonistic”**

- “showing or feeling active opposition or hostility toward someone or something”

### **CS Lewis**

- Each side hears not the best the other group can say, but only the worst

### **The tragedy of an auto-immune disorder**

- the body attacks healthy parts of the body as if they were the enemy

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## **From Antagonism to the Common Good**

1 Corinthians 12:4-14

[bib.ly/1Co12.NIV](https://bib.ly/1Co12.NIV)



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# 1 Corinthians 12:4-6

There are different kinds of gifts,  
but the same Spirit distributes them.  
There are different kinds of service,  
but the same Lord.  
There are different kinds of working,  
but in all of them and in everyone  
it is the same God at work.

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# 1 Corinthians 12:7-11

**Now to each one the manifestation of the Spirit is given for the common good.** To one there is given through the Spirit a message of wisdom...a message of knowledge...faith...healing...miraculous powers...prophecy...distinguishing between spirits...speaking in different kinds of tongues...the interpretation of tongues. **All these are the work of one and the same Spirit, and he distributes them to each one, just as he determines.**

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## **1 Corinthians 12:12-14**

**Just as a body, though one, has many parts, but all its many parts form one body, so it is with Christ.**

**For we were all baptized by one Spirit so as to form one body**

**—whether Jews or Gentiles, slave or free—**

**and we were all given the one Spirit to drink.**

**Even so the body is not made up of one part but of many.**

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## **The Big Idea**

God has designed His Church  
to be made up of  
a diversity of people,  
with a diversity of gifts,  
in unity for the common good

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## **How do we breathe?**

- Inhale AND Exhale
  - “Antagonistic” muscles try to do opposite things
  - And both are necessary!
- Healthy breathing: Deep inhale, full exhale
- Unhealthy breathing: just a little of each
- Without rich use of “opposite muscles”, we won’t be healthy

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## **Opposite Muscles in the Church**

- What might be some “opposite muscles” in the church?
- Without rich use of “opposite muscles”, we won’t be healthy

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## Application

**“Our unity can be enhanced by appreciating the variety of gifts God has given to us”**

- Two bad approaches about God’s gifts
  - “My gift/perspective is **the right one**”
  - “My gift/perspective is **not valuable**”
- The good approach
  - Appreciate the variety of gifts and peoples as gifts God has given us for our common good
  - Learn to work in harmony for common good

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with a diversity of gifts,  
in unity for the common good**

**Let's appreciate the variety of gifts and peoples  
as gifts from God**