

Week of July 6, 2025 - The One Body of Christ | Small Group Lesson 27

Connect

Think about your own body. Which part do you think is "most important" for your daily life, and why? (e.g., eyes for seeing, hands for doing, brain for thinking).

Verses - 1 Corinthians 12:12-31 (CSB)

READ ALOUD:

12 For just as the body is one and has many parts, and all the parts of that body, though many, are one body—so also is Christ. 13 For we were all baptized by one Spirit into one body—whether Jews or Greeks, whether slaves or free—and we were all given one Spirit to drink. 14 Indeed, the body is not one part but many. 15 If the foot should say, “Because I’m not a hand, I don’t belong to the body,” it is not for that reason any less a part of the body. 16 And if the ear should say, “Because I’m not an eye, I don’t belong to the body,” it is not for that reason any less a part of the body. 17 If the whole body were an eye, where would the hearing be? If the whole body were an ear, where would the sense of smell be? 18 But as it is, God has arranged each one of the parts in the body just as he wanted. 19 And if they were all the same part, where would the body be? 20 As it is, there are many parts, but one body. 21 The eye cannot say to the hand, “I don’t need you!” Or again, the head can’t say to the feet, “I don’t need you!” 22 On the contrary, those parts of the body that are weaker are indispensable. 23 And those parts of the body that we consider less honorable, we clothe these with greater honor, and our unrespectable parts are treated with greater respect, 24 which our respectable parts do not need. Instead, God has put the body together, giving greater honor to the less honorable, 25 so that there would be no division in the body, but that the members would have the same concern for each other. 26 So if one member suffers, all the members suffer with it; if one member is honored, all the members rejoice with it. 27 Now you are the body of Christ, and individual members of it. 28 And God has appointed these in the church: first apostles, second prophets, third teachers, next miracles, then gifts of healing, helping, leading, various kinds of tongues. 29 Are all apostles? Are all prophets? Are all teachers? Do all do miracles? 30 Do all have gifts of healing? Do all speak in tongues? Do all interpret? 31 But desire the greater gifts. And I will show you an even better way.

Briefly restate the context. How is it encouraging, challenging, comforting, etc.?

Study

Answer the questions together based on the Bible verses:

1. In vv.12-13, Paul uses the analogy of a human body to describe the church. What does he say makes us "one body" despite "many parts"?

2. What problem is Paul addressing in verses 15-20 when he describes the foot or eye complaining (vv.15-16). What is God's role in arranging them? What does that mean , if He is the one that arranges?

3. In vv.21-24 what does he say about the parts of the body that seem "weaker" or "less honorable"? Why are they often "indispensable"?

4. According to vv.25-26, what is God's purpose in putting the body together this way, giving honor to the less honorable? How should the body respond?

5. In vv.28-30, Paul lists various gifts and asks rhetorical questions. What is the main point he's making about the diversity of roles within the church?

Share

Discuss 1:
Pastor Takeshi shared a story about his son's classmate with Down Syndrome. How does this story illustrate Paul's point that every person, regardless of perceived abilities, is "extremely important in God's church" and has a unique impact?

Discuss 2:
P. Takeshi states, "If we think that just because we cannot teach, sing, cook, or usher; the church doesn't need our service, we're wrong." What does he suggest those do for those who feel they have nothing "impressive" to offer?

Discuss 3:
What is one small step you can take this week to "discover & nurture your gift" and use it to "care for His church," even if it seems unnoticed?

Minister to one another through sharing specific prayer requests.