

Parts of a Whole: The Body of Christ
September 12th, 2021 – Pastor Nick Neves
1 Corinthians 12:15-26

Because the church functions in many of the same ways that a biological body does, the church will grow stronger when it understands the interdependence and unity that God (the Head of the body!) has designed it to display.

This passage communicates FOUR primary facts through the metaphor of the church as Christ's body:

1. You don't have to be just like every other part of the body in order to _____ to the body. (verses 15-16)

What connects you to the body of Christ? Divine _____ does. God makes you a part of the body, and you cannot choose to undo what Christ has done.

*If you are a Christian, your place in the body of Christ is not voluntary, it is compulsory. By your very identity, you belong to this body, regardless of what role and gifting the Lord has chosen to give to you!

2. If there was no diversity among the body, the body would be _____. (verses 17-20)

How does the Garden of Eden help us understand God's intention in making mankind diverse?

Personal Application: Is there a feature, or characteristic, or gifting in someone else that grates on you because it is different than what you naturally are? How can you learn to appreciate that difference as part of God's plan for a harmonious church?

3. _____ perception of your value does not determine your place in the body of Christ. (verses 21-24)

If God has placed someone into the body of Christ, that body has *need* of the person!

What actions communicate to a brother or sister that they are not needed? How can we guard the health of the body against that?

4. God arranges the body so that each member has purpose, and all members are _____ one to another. (verses 24-26)

How does Paul model the importance of depending on the gifting that God has given to the other brothers and sisters in the body of Christ?

Any discussion of the body should lead our attention back to the head, for without the head, the body cannot live.

Vs. 18 – *But as it is, God arranged the members in the body, each one of them, as He chose.*

Vs. 24-25 – *But God has so composed the body, giving greater honor to the part that lacked it, ²⁵ that there may be no division in the body, but that the members may have the same care for one another.*

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