

1st Corinthians: Be A Believer

## God Has Set the Members

1st Corinthians 12:12-27

### Refresher

- Written by Paul to the church in Corinth
- There was a saying “**To live like a Corinthian**” untethered lifestyle
- Corrective letters
- **I do not want you to be ignorant: Israel, Gifts, Return**
- The Holy Spirit is a *person* in the Trinity
- His work: para, en, epi (alongside in, upon/filling)

**Today we’re going to look at the body**

*Ash saying she loved me and I said you must as I just saw myself in the mirror*

**Slim Goodbody** - 80s show, tight outfit with organs all over it, taught about health, fitness, the body - weird, but memorable

**[Pray]**

## 12:12-13

**The comparison of the natural body to the body of Christ**

God made both

Adam dust, breathed into, animated into life

The church, Pentecost, the wind of God, tongues of fire, life

“We are the aliens” - looking at human life vs. the rest of the earth

YES, WE ARE MADE IN THE IMAGE OF GOD

Jesus’ resurrected physical body ascended

He sent his holy spirit for US to be his physical body

**John 14:12 NKJV - "Most assuredly, I say to you, he who believes in Me, the works that I do he will do also; and greater [works] than these he will do, because I go to My Father.**

**Baptized into one body**

We are all one in Christ (every tribe, nation and tongue in heaven)

Drink into one Spirit - drink - to give to drink, to water, irrigate, to saturate one’s mind

**John 4:10 NKJV - Jesus answered and said to her, "If you knew the gift of God, and who it is who says to you, 'Give Me a drink,' you would have asked Him, and He would have given you living water."**

**John 7:38 NKJV - "He who believes in Me, as the Scripture has said, out of his heart will flow rivers of living water."**

## **:14-19**

**For in fact the body is not one member, but many**

It is a fact. It is science

There are different cells for each part of the body

In fact, we are still discovering new organs - membrane of tissues in the body now classified as a new organ

One cell at conception - eventually splits and new cells take on new roles defined in the DNA

### **The dangers of comparison**

Walking on your hands is quite the feat (pun intended)

But it's not natural for us, we are not monkeys

Irreducible complexity - the eye. Take away or change one part, the whole thing fails

Same thing with the 32 universal constants. Like knobs on a sound board, change one even a little bit, it all fails - very balanced jenga board

Birth defects - very sad and tragic. Yet you'll see some amazing stories of folks doing amazing things, even without normal function or even limbs.

### **Comparing what one part does to another part isn't logical. It isn't sound.**

A foot is designed for walking, kicking, running

A hand is designed to manipulate a vast array of things - grabbing, drawing, playing an instrument, holding someone close

And yet we compare ourselves to each other, not realizing, or forgetting, that we too, are like the body. Designed, SET APART, for a specific purpose. We look at someone else and want to "fit in their shoes" or "fit into their way of doing things" and it just doesn't work. It just isn't natural.

Instead, we should seek to find out which part we are, and learn to find joy in being who God made us to be - not who we've made us to be.

*Coming to faith - shedding all my old ways, habits, interests - looking to those around me was good, but I didn't know it was OK to be the person God would make me to be (follow me as I follow Christ)*

### **Imagine if the body was all one part**

It wouldn't work. There needs to be differentiation and specialization.

Same thing in families. Jobs. Society.

One of the benefits of a healthy society is it frees up people from the pursuit of surviving and can pursue advances in medicine, science, sports, technology...

**So it should be in the family. In Church as well.**

**Acts 6:1-7 NKJV - Now in those days, when [the number of] the disciples was multiplying, there arose a complaint against the Hebrews by the Hellenists, because their widows were neglected in the daily distribution. Then the twelve summoned the multitude of the disciples and said, "It is not desirable that we should leave the word of God and serve tables. "Therefore, brethren, seek out from among you seven men of [good] reputation, full of the Holy Spirit and wisdom, whom we may appoint over this business; "but we will give ourselves continually to prayer and to the ministry of the word." And the saying pleased the whole multitude. And they chose Stephen, a man full of faith and the Holy Spirit, and Philip, Prochorus, Nicanor, Timon, Parmenas, and Nicolas, a proselyte from Antioch, whom they set before the apostles; and when they had prayed, they laid hands on them. Then the word of God spread, and the number of the disciples multiplied greatly in Jerusalem, and a great many of the priests were obedient to the faith.**

**Proper differentiation of role and duty did what? It caused the Word of God to spread!**

### **V18 God has set the members - just as he pleased**

Remember that - it is God who made you. God who made you to be a specific part. You have no burden or obligation to be anything but that, in freedom, in Him.

It doesn't mean we don't use our foot to scratch our leg sometimes. Or sometimes a hand has to help the eye see in the morning, but there's no burden on you to come up with a way to see when you're a hand. **It's physically impossible.**

Unfortunately we see that a lot in the world today...

People trying to be something that they can physically never be

People take roles that clearly aren't for them.

God designed the body.

God designed the family.

God designed the church.

**It only works if we let them work they way he designed them to work.**

**Where would the body be? If it was all ears, there would be no body.  
Where is the body today? In the last days? Laodicea. It is weak. It is distracted. It is lukewarm.**

**But there's also the Philadelphian church in the last days - one of brotherly love. Loving one another. This is how the body should be.**

## **:20-27**

**Indeed there are many members**

206 bones! Many different types.

**A healthy church body has many different members**

Age

Wealth

Status

Intelligence

Men and Women

Musicians and thinkers

Doers and organizers

Helpers and leaders

True diversity - not for some quota, but a good cross section of the area in which it thrives

This happens when the word of God spreads

This happens when the members of the body step up and do what they are called to do

Especially men to lead

**Imagine an eye saying it doesn't need the face**

**Or the feet**

**It could see but it couldn't go**

**Or the reverse - it could go, but it'd have no idea of where it was going or if it was going to stub a toe or fall off a cliff**

Sadly the more we think about this, is this not a huge plague within Christianity today? So caught up in one thing but neglecting the rest?

**Matthew 23:23-24 NKJV - "Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you pay tithe of mint and anise and cummin, and have neglected the weightier [matters] of the law: justice and mercy and faith. These you ought to have done, without leaving the others undone. "Blind guides, who strain out a gnat and swallow a camel!"**

**We get it twisted** - we think that the parts that get more honor are more honorable

Covering your private areas - because they are unpresentable

Yet our hands and face and feet can be bare and no issue there - unless the bare feet go up on the coffee table!

God gives the greater honor to the parts that lack it.

That's something to think about. They intrinsically don't have honor - but God bestows it on them.

*Same thing in the church. We look at those who are up on stage or singing or teaching and give them more honor...when in fact, the one who probably has the most honor is the grandma in the back who nobody notices, but she prays for many hours a week for the people of the church. Or the poor man who cleans the toilets and cares for the people of the church, while maybe the senior pastor gets all the love and attention but really isn't loving the body.*

**A healthy body recognizes the parts and puts proper honor on each.**

And those who are doing a good job deserve honor and respect and pay

**1 Timothy 5:17-19 NKJV - Let the elders who rule well be counted worthy of double honor, especially those who labor in the word and doctrine. For the Scripture says, "You shall not muzzle an ox while it treads out the grain," and, "The laborer [is] worthy of his wages." Do not receive an accusation against an elder except from two or three witnesses.**

**Hebrews 13:17 NKJV - Obey those who rule over you, and be submissive, for they watch out for your souls, as those who must give account. Let them do so with joy and not with grief, for that would be unprofitable for you.**

**There should be no schism in the body**

Rent, division, dissension

Splitting their garments with grief

The holy Spirit is grieved by this.

**We are all in Jesus**

Loving each other in our own church, own denomination, and yes, the whole body of Jesus

We don't always have to agree, we can agree to disagree, but to not love each other? To not consider that maybe our denomination is a leg and theirs is an arm? To not have grace for each other is to be shortsighted at best. Blind at worst.

**Also, when one member hurts - when you stub your toe, does not your whole body come to an immediate halt?**

Family always checking in on each other when we hear something happen - because we love each other

**The church should do the same - and naturally**

A sickness, a grief, a need

*Moving all the time in NY*

**2 Corinthians 1:3-4 NKJV - Blessed [be] the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies and God of all comfort, who comforts us in all our tribulation, that we may be able to comfort those who are in any trouble, with the comfort with which we ourselves are comforted by God.**

**Romans 12:9-16 NKJV - [Let] love [be] without hypocrisy. Abhor what is evil. Cling to what is good. [Be] kindly affectionate to one another with brotherly love, in honor giving preference to one another; not lagging in diligence, fervent in spirit, serving the Lord; rejoicing in hope, patient in tribulation, continuing steadfastly in prayer; distributing to the needs of the saints, given to hospitality. Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse. Rejoice with those who rejoice, and weep with those who weep. Be of the same mind toward one another. Do not set your mind on high things, but associate with the humble. Do not be wise in your own opinion.**

**Now you are the body of Christ and members individually**

We are all collectively the body of Jesus and yet we are all equally important individually.

The body is not complete without all of its parts. And one part is not more important than another, in Christ's body.

Sure, we can live without an arm, but is it best?

**But we can't live without a heart, or our head, and the head is Christ.**

**John 15:5 NKJV - "I am the vine, you [are] the branches. He who abides in Me, and I in him, bears much fruit; for without Me you can do nothing.**