

THE CHURCH

6. The Church Is Like A Body – Part 2



Introduction

In our previous study we learnt that the church is called the Body of Christ. Jesus, as head of the body, is in the highest position, and has control over the body. We make up the members of the body, and are to express the desires and plans of Jesus here on earth. There are many more truths we can learn about the church from this picture, and we find some of those in 1 Corinthians.

Scripture Reading: 1 Corinthians 12:12-26

A. UNITY OF THE BODY V12-13

The first thing we discover in this passage is that, although the body has many parts to it, it is still one body. The body is united. The Apostle Paul was writing these words at a time when there was a great deal of racial prejudice, and there were many people who were slaves. However in the body of Christ there is no difference between races, those who are rich or poor, or those who are educated or not. When we come to Christ, we all come in the same way! We come as sinners needing God's forgiveness, and we receive the same Holy Spirit. Since the Holy Spirit lives within us, we are one body.

Whether we worship in the same building or not, spiritually we are one, if we have the same Holy Spirit living in us. This is why it is so important not to criticise other believers, as we belong to the same body – the Body of Christ. When Jesus left this earth, he prayed for his disciples, and all who would become disciples in the future, that we would be one, just as he and the Father are one. Read John 17:20-23.

B. DIVERSITY IN THE BODY V14-20

Although the body is one, it is made up of many parts. There are many parts to our bodies: hands, feet, lungs, heart and kidneys, to name just a few. The foot can't say it is more important than the hand, as each part has a different use and is needed. The Bible says that God has created us perfectly, making each part of the body just as he wants it to be. V18. You can't have a body if you only have one part! V19. Just as a body needs many parts, the same is true in the spiritual body, the Church.

Have you ever thought that you can't do what others do? Or perhaps you have thought you are not as good as the others are. If you belong to Jesus, then you ARE part of the Body, and God has made you just how he wants you to be. God has made us differently on purpose, because he wants us to do different tasks.

(Spend some time discussing some of the tasks the different members can do in the Body of Christ, including the practical things, as well as speaking and the gifts of the Spirit.)

C. MUTUALITY IN THE BODY V21-26

The third truth we can learn from the picture of the body, is that each part needs the others. The members, or parts of our body, depend on one another. Think about your own body for a moment! Our eyes need our hands, don't they? If we see something on the table, we can only reach it with our hands. It must be

difficult for those who are blind! Our eyes cannot say to our hands, 'I don't need you'. God has made our body so that each part needs and depends on the others.

The same is true in the Body of Christ. Although God has made us all differently, we need each other. There may be some people who feel they don't need other Christians, but they do. God has made us this way, so it is important that we always meet for fellowship, to encourage one another. We are not meant to stand on our own!

Conclusion

Each one of us belong to the Body of Christ and God wants us to fulfil our function. In a human body it is difficult when one part is not functioning well. Someone may have an ear that can't hear well, or a shoulder that is stiff, and this affects the whole body. Are you doing our part in the Body of Christ?

The most fulfilling thing to do, is just what God created you to do. You are not inferior, or superior, to anyone else, as each part in the Body is important to God. Perhaps you are not sure what your role is yet, so just be willing to do whatever needs doing, and gradually you will grow into the place God has for you in his Body.