

1 CORINTHIANS
CALLED OUT
SMALL GROUP CURRICULUM



Sermon: **We Are The Body Of Christ (1 Corinthians 12:14-26)**

Date: **April 9, 2017**

The human body is made up of many different parts. Each part has its own unique, God-given role to play in the functioning of the body. The body needs its parts and the parts need each other. If an individual part became disconnected from the body, it would no longer function. This is how God has beautifully designed our bodies. In this way, the church is very similar to the human body. This is Paul's argument in 1 Corinthians 12:14-26 as he uses the human body as a metaphor for the church. God has given unique gifts and abilities to his children for special purposes in the kingdom of God. We must embrace and fulfill our God-given roles in the church body. Furthermore, we must learn to respect and show honour to others in the church that are gifted differently than we are. There is no room for jealousy in the body of Christ. Finally, as we live together as one body, we must rejoice as one with those who rejoice and suffer as one with those who suffer. We are the body of Christ.

What you need for this study: Bible, Notebook, Pen

Individual Bible Study

1. Please read 1 Corinthians 12:14-26 and ensure that you've listened to Sunday's sermon.
 - a. What parallels does Paul draw between a human body and the body of Christ in this passage?
 - b. Read verses 14-20. What is Paul's main argument in this section of the text?
 - c. How do you know what your God-given purpose is in the body of Christ? What can you do to discover your purpose?
 - d. How can we learn to be content with the role that God has given us?
 - e. Read verses 21-25. What is Paul's main argument in this section of the text?
 - f. Paul writes in verse 23, "and on those parts of the body that we think less honorable we bestow the greater honour." What does this mean and how does it apply to us?

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- g. What can we do to show honour to other people in the church that are gifted differently than we are?
- h. Read verse 26. How can we grieve with those who grieve? How can we rejoice with those who rejoice?
- i. What are some ways in which you might be tempted to be jealous of another person in the church? What can we do to avoid being jealous of those that have been given different ministries in the body of Christ than we have?
- j. Paul paints a beautiful picture of the church community in this passage. How does the uncommon community we experience as a church give a compelling testimony to the world around us?

Group Discussion Questions

1. How did the Holy Spirit speak to you through the sermon and the Bible study this week?
2. God has given each of us unique gifts and roles in the kingdom of God. How do we know what our role is? What can we do to discover our role? How can we learn to rejoice in the way that God has gifted and purposed us?
3. What are some ways we might be tempted to be jealous of others in the church? What can we do to avoid being jealous?
4. How can we tangibly celebrate and rejoice with people who rejoice and are honoured (v. 26)? How might this help us put off the sin of jealousy?
5. What does it look like to feel someone else's pain? How can we tangibly suffer with those who suffer and mourn with those who mourn (v. 26)? What might this look like in our small group context?