

1 Corinthians 12:12-27

Background: Paul talking about how to behave in the body... factions because of favorite teachers / immorality / personal freedom vs. doing what's best for your brother / how to behave during communion

In Chapt. 12: Paul talks about gifts, but he has this break and explains that each member is important---because of the issue of tongues (people thought it was a "more" spiritual gift.

FOCUS: Attitude toward self and others!!

VS. 12

States the general idea of this entire section

--diversity and unity

...Christ is one body= Was on earth, He is in heaven now. Christ is one body.

VS. 13

ONE Spirit...one body

--It's o.k. to be different (here=backgrounds, socio-economic status, gifts, ministries)

--BUT need to realize we were all baptized / placed into submerged into Christ

(vs. 27...more than just "a body"...we are Christ body!!)

--AND we all (despite being different) need to continue drinking, be irrigated from / saturated with the same Spirit. (Col. 2:19)

VS. 14-17

Read section---**Individual Significance**

--You are significant! You have a function! This body needs you!

--It's vital to the health of PSCC for you to be here, functioning in your role!

**Eph 4:15-16

****How different would our body look if everyone realized their own importance?**

VS. 18

Are you happy with your place??

God placed you there, and it was His desire!

VS. 19-21

Read section---**Interdependence**

Your function is important, BUT SO IS EVERY ONE ELSE'S!!

Read...12:4-7

Would you rather...lose a leg or an arm? Be blind or deaf? Be blind or lose a hand?

--What is your attitude toward other people in this body?

--What is your attitude towards other ministries?

VS. 22-24

Read section---Interdependence continued...**Importance of the unseen**

VS. 22

--SEEM to be weaker

--Weaker=imperfect or without strength

--Necessary= indispensable / can not be done without

VS. 23

--less honorable =less of a reputation

--bestow more abundant honor==dress with great care

--unseemly members =indecent / not presentable

--abundant seemliness = graceful / stately

Just because what you're doing is not seen...doesn't mean that it is not important! In fact it may be of even great importance.

*Our private parts

*Our organs

VS. 24

--honor= price, reverence, respect for a rank

--lacked= in last place /inferior

--The idea here is that God puts "more importance" in the less evident parts...since the "seemly" parts don't have need of the "special honor"

...He does this to maintain unity (see vs. 25)

VS. 25

Refer back to 12:18

--God has done as He wished...so that there would not be division, **and to create a great care between us.**

--Care= to look out for / provide for / to be anxious or troubled for another

VS. 26

Why should I care about others?

If one part suffers (feels pain) all members are affected.

--EX: twisted ankle...less exercise /arms sore from crutches / other foot endures more weight **or if in a race no part of the body will be honored!**

If one part is honored all are honored.

--EX: legs of a racer...the whole person comes up to receive the medal.

VS. 27

Remember...we **together** are individual members of **Christ** body!

**Just as the Corinthians...we have all we need to function properly! ~1 Cor. 1:4-9

APPLICATION:

Be connected to / sensitive to the Spirit that binds us together

Have a right attitude towards self and others (see as body part)

Function as you ought to

Make right any wrongs that you have with other members

Other Scriptures about the church as a body:

*Romans 12:3-5 (not thinking highly of self)

* Ephesians 1:22-23 / 4:15-16 / 5:29-30 (all parts growing / Christ is Head)

*Colossians 1:24 / 2:19 (Christ as head...supplies and unifies)