



# Bible Study

1 Corinthians 12:12-27

## Considering how the Body of Christ functions Part 1 (of 2)

### *Unity and Diversity in the Body*

*12 Just as a body, though one, has many parts, but all its many parts form one body, so it is with Christ. 13 For we were all baptized by[c] one Spirit so as to form one body—whether Jews or Gentiles, slave or free—and we were all given the one Spirit to drink. 14 Even so the body is not made up of one part but of many.*

*15 Now if the foot should say, “Because I am not a hand, I do not belong to the body,” it would not for that reason stop being part of the body. 16 And if the ear should say, “Because I am not an eye, I do not belong to the body,” it would not for that reason stop being part of the body. 17 If the whole body were an eye, where would the sense of hearing be? If the whole body were an ear, where would the sense of smell be? 18 But in fact God has placed the parts in the body, every one of them, just as he wanted them to be. 19 If they were all one part, where would the body be? 20 As it is, there are many parts, but one body.*

*21 The eye cannot say to the hand, “I don’t need you!” And the head cannot say to the feet, “I don’t need you!” 22 On the contrary, those parts of the body that seem to be weaker are indispensable, 23 and the parts that we think are less honorable we treat with special honor. And the parts that are unpresentable are treated with special modesty, 24 while our presentable parts need no special treatment. But God has put the body together, giving greater honor to the parts that lacked it, 25 so that there should be no division in the body, but that its parts should have equal concern for each other. 26 If one part suffers, every part suffers with it; if one part is honored, every part rejoices with it.*

*27 Now you are the body of Christ, and each one of you is a part of it.*



## Pondering Point

Likely we have all seen someone or experienced for ourselves walking with a limp because one part of the body is suffering. When we are practicing body life, we will almost naturally suffer with those who are suffering, being one in spirit with them. We will also naturally (in the spirit) rejoice with those who are rejoicing. The whole body celebrates good things and the whole body deals with difficult things. That is body life in Jesus.

## Prayer

*Lord, help us be Your body rather than our own lesser version. Amen.*

## Micro-Moment of Discipleship

1 Corinthians 12:12

*The body is a unit, though it is made up of many parts...  
So it is with Christ.*

Knees and other joints allow the body to be flexible in helpful ways while at the same time staying unyielding in ways that would be unhelpful for the body to move. It is important for the body of Christ to have people who keep us flexible in all the right ways. Pause and think of those who serve like knees and elbows in your church; then thank God for them enabling the church to be flexible in the right ways.

1 Corinthians 12:18

*God arranged the parts in the body, every one of them, just as he wanted them*

Muscles are parts of the body that help the church move in order to carry out actions that channeled from the mind of Christ. There are many different muscles for the various tasks of the body. Without muscles, the work of God simply remains in the idea stage. Who are the people who get things done in your ministry? Thank God for them helping move the church.

1 Corinthians 12:25

*There should be no division in the body*



Bones: Skeletal bones provide necessary structure to enable to muscles to move the body. Certain people are gifted to build and sustain the structure and organization of the church. Hope's Board of Directors help provide such structure for ministry. Who else helps provide structure for your church? Thank God for them enabling the church to be organized and constructed well.

## 1 Corinthians 12:25

*its parts should have equal concern for each other*

Lungs: This body part helps bring necessary oxygen into the human body to enable it to operate as intended. Certain people in the church are used by the Holy Spirit to inspire or breathe encouragement to the life into the church. Pause and think of those who operate like lungs, bringing helpful encouragement to the muscles doing work; thank God for them being "inspirational".

## Prayer

*Lord, I take time in this moment to thank You for those people in the body of Christ who inspire us and who keep up moving in godly direction. Thank You for those who provide necessary organization without which such movement is impossible. Finally, thank You for those who keep us flexible as Your people. Bless us all to work together to Your glory. In Jesus' name I pray. Amen.*

Bible Study from [Immersed-in-Jesus.org](http://Immersed-in-Jesus.org)



## Ephesians 4:1-13

### Considering how the Body of Christ functions Part 2 (of 2)

*As a prisoner for the Lord, then, I urge you to live a life worthy of the calling you have received. Be completely humble and gentle; be patient, bearing with one another in love. Make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace. There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called to one hope when you were called; one Lord, one faith, one baptism; one God and Father of all, who is over all and through all and in all. But to each one of us grace has been given as Christ apportioned it. This is why it says: "When he ascended on high, he took many captives and gave gifts to his people." (What does "he ascended" mean except that he also descended to the lower, earthly regions? He who descended is the very one who ascended higher than all the heavens, in order to fill the whole universe.) So Christ himself gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the pastors and teachers, to equip his people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up until we all reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of the Son of God and become mature, attaining to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ.*  
~ Apostle Paul

### Pondering Point

Note that we are all responsible for helping Jesus' body be built up, reach unity in the faith and knowledge of Jesus, become mature and attain the whole measure of the fullness of being in Christ Jesus. Pray now about your role in this growth process with Father God.

### Prayer

*Lord, I take on the Apostle Paul's words for my prayer today: I want to live a life that is worthy of the calling you have given me. I want it to include humility and gentleness. I want to be patient and bear with other people in love -- like You do.*

*Help me make an effort through the Holy Spirit to be at peace with others -- to not let strife or bitterness linger. Help me to display your grace to this world just as you have displayed and given me grace as your child. I now pray this same prayer for my brothers and sisters united with me in bringing your message to this world in need. In Jesus' name I pray. Amen.*



## Micro-Moment of Discipleship

### 1 Corinthians 12:21

*The eye cannot say to the hand, "I don't need you!"*

Eyes see what is going on around a person. Within the church, people like this see the needs in a church and community and relay such information to the mind for action.

The eyes of Jesus stay watchful of people and communicate to the rest of the body opportunities to love and serve. Who are the eyes in your church? Thank God for them. Pray that they have the 'eyes' of Jesus to benefit the church.

### 1 Corinthians 12:17

*If the whole body were an eye, where would the sense of hearing be?*

Ears, like the eyes, do a great deal of receiving information that the body of Christ can use. The ears of a church pick up different things than the eyes – in both the church and community.

While this should be true of all of us, these people are great listeners, in tune with things that others are oblivious to. Who are the ears of your church? Thank God for them and ask that they hear clearly.

### 1 Corinthians 12:22

*those parts of the body that seem to be weaker are indispensable*

Nose Hairs: Nose hairs serve a valuable purpose in keeping unhealthy germs out of the body.

For a church, that might mean keeping out a wrong teaching, a wrong spirit, or a wrong attitude. These people teach us how to mix forgiveness with tactful telling of the truth – for the sake of health in the body of Christ.

Pause and think who may be the nose hairs in your church; thank God for nose-hair types who help the church stay healthy by keeping the wrong stuff out.



## Prayer

*Lord, I take time in this moment to thank You for those people in the body of Christ who see and hear the needs of others who can benefit from love and service in Your name. Thank You also for those fight to keep out unhealthy spirits, attitudes and the like. Bless us all to work together to Your glory. In Jesus' name I pray. Amen.*

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