

1 CORINTHIANS:

God's Glorious Church in Real Life

Sermon Title: "Many Different Parts, One Beautiful Body"

Scripture: 1 Corinthians 12:14-31

Pastor Chris Fritz / Sunday, July 11, 2021

INTRODUCTION

1 Corinthians 12:13 -

I. BODY BASICS: HARMFUL AND HELPFUL PERSPECTIVES ON THE BODY OF CHRIST

A. The "I'm-Not-Needed-Woe-Is-Me-I'm-Useless" Camp (1 Corinthians 12:14-16)

The Self-Centered Lament: "I'm not gifted, strong, or useful like other parts of the body!"

1 Corinthians 12:17-20 -

The Correction: In your unique role, gifting, and ability, TRUST the wisdom and goodness of God.

Ephesians 2:10; Isaiah 55:8-9 -

B. The "I-Don't-Need-You-I'm-Fine-On-My-Own" Camp (1 Corinthians 12:21)

The Arrogant Boast: "I don't need all these loser parts around me; I'm sufficient on my own!"

The Correction: We ought to strive to love, value, and honor every member/part of the Body!

1 Corinthians 12:22-23; Romans 13:7; Romans 12:10; Hebrews 6:10; 1 Corinthians 12:23-26 -

II. THE GRAND SUMMARY OF CHAPTER 12 AND PREPARATION FOR CHAPTER 13

1 Corinthians 12:27 -

The Grand Summary: You ARE the Body of Christ, AND you are PART of the Body of Christ.

1 Corinthians 12:28 -

The Grand Illustration: This truth applies to every Christian, no matter who you are!

1 Corinthians 12:29-30 -

The Grand Application: No one office, gift, or manifestation of the Spirit will define every believer.

1 Corinthians 12:31 -

The Grand Transition: LOVE is the channel through which all gifts must flow!

Questions for Further Study, Reflection, and Application...

1. What are two dangerous, harmful “camps” or ways of thinking that Paul describes?
2. What is the correction Paul gives to each of these unhelpful ways of thinking?
3. Which gifts, members, and/or roles in the Body of Christ do you easily value and honor? Why?
4. Which gifts, members, and/or roles in the Body of Christ are you tempted to ignore or regard as unimportant? Why is that the case?
5. Who is one person or team of people that you can pray for and encourage today or this week?
6. Why is it important for us to regard ourselves as the body of Christ and part of the body of Christ?
7. What is the more excellent way mentioned in verse 31? Why is it so important?