

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

Scripture: 1 Corinthians 12:14-31 Pastor Chris Fritz / Sunday, July 11, 2021

INTRODUCTION

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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 parts of the body!"							
1 Corinthians 12:17-20 -							
The Correction: In your unique role, gifting, and ability, 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 parts around me; I'm sufficient on my own!"							
The Correction: We ought to strive to love, value, and honor 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 of the Body of Christ.
1 Corinthians 12:28 -
The Grand Illustration: This truth applies to Christian, no matter who you are!
1 Corinthians 12:29-30 -
The Grand Application: No office, gift, or manifestation of the Spirit will define every believer.
1 Corinthians 12:31 -
The Grand Transition: LOVE is the 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?