

THRU-OUT the NT

ALL Believers Together - are referred to
AS the Body of Christ

My Question for you today is

What if We – AS the Body of Christ - Were to FUNCTION

AS GOD intended - the Body of Christ to Function?

Because Our Culture has MADE church into
(Mostly) a Spectator Sport

The “Concept” - of EACH of US BEING a
FUNCTIONING PART of the BODY of Christ

Might be NEW (or Maybe a bit UNCLEAR) to you - (*that's ok*)

So Let me start with - Romans 12:4–5 (NLT)

4 Just as our bodies have many parts and each part has a special function, 5 so it is with Christ's body. We are many parts of one body, and we all belong to each other.

THAT is what I'd like to talk about for a few minutes

We are many parts of one body, and we all belong to each other.

Let's Pray

So **FIRST** this **morning** – **Pls Hear me** when I **say**

I am **NOT teaching** this **message** to **GET YOU** to come up
& **WORK** with us – For the **Harvest Festival** tonight – (*really not*)

I'm **Sharing** this **MSG**
to **INSPIRE YOU** – & to **ENCOURAGE YOU**

So that **YOU CAN KNOW** – that **if you** have **made Jesus**
your Lord today – then **YOU ARE part** of **His Body**

& **God** has **Given you** a **GIFT**
To BE – a **FUNCTIONING PART** of the **Body of Christ**

<p><u>GOD SEES YOU</u> today – As a <u>NECESSARY PART</u> of the <u>Body of Christ</u> on <u>Earth</u></p>
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So – **we're headed** to **1 Cor 12:12** – **Where** the
Section heading (NLT) is – ***“One Body with Many Parts”***

But – in the **Verses Leading INTO** this **section**

Is the **THEOLOGY** (The Spiritual Teaching) of **this Truth**
That we are ***“One Body with Many Parts”***

& **in that** previous **section**

in **1 Corinthians 12:4–7** we **read** this → →

1 Corinthians 12:4–7 (NLT)

4 There are different kinds of spiritual gifts, but the same Spirit is the source of them all. (notice the unity)

5 There are different kinds of service, but we serve the same Lord.
(notice the unity)

6 God works in different ways, but it is the same God who does the work in all of us. (notice the unity)

7 A spiritual gift is given to each of us so we can help each other.

Vs.7 makes this REAL

Vs.7 makes this PERSONAL

A spiritual gift is given to EACH of us
so we can HELP EACH OTHER.

The Word **EACH** is a **Clear Reference** to **EVERY Believer**

IF You have made Jesus your Savior & Lord
Then you can put YOUR NAME - here in V.7

So – **Let me read** this vs **again**
& **when** I **get** to **the Blank** – you say – **“ME”**

A spiritual gift is given to _____ so I can HELP others in the body

THAT is a Pure - Biblical - Spiritual Truth

God has GIVEN YOU - A spiritual gift
so YOU can HELP others in the body

Then – the **Holy Spirit** - **TAKES that “TRUTH”**

& he **makes it** really **PRACTICAL** – in Our **Section** Today

1 Corinthians 12:12–13 (NLT)

12 The human body has many parts, but the many parts make up one whole body. So it is with the body of Christ.

13 Some of us are Jews, some are Gentiles, some are slaves, and some are free. But we have all been baptized into one body by one Spirit, and we all share the same Spirit.

God has **MADE US** to **BE**
PART of the **Body of Christ**

Notice again – the **EMPHASIS** on **UNITY** – ***we’ve been baptized into one body by one Spirit, and we all share the same Spirit***

& **so** – **I want** to **just MENTION**

TWO ATTITUDES (Perspectives) on **you being**
a **Functioning PART** of the **Body of Christ**

That are **Unhealthy** - **Damaging** to the **Body**
& **I believe** – **Grieving** to the **Holy Spirit** of **God**

The **FIRST ONE** is the - **“Nobody Needs Me Attitude”**

1 Corinthians 12:14–16 (NLT)

14 Yes, the body has many different parts, not just one part.

15 If the foot says, “I am not a part of the body because I am not a hand,” that does not make it any less a part of the body. → →

16 And if the ear says, “I am not part of the body because I am not an eye,” would that make it any less a part of the body?

The **First Thing** we **HAVE** to “**GET OVER**”
Is **SAYING** – Or **THINKING**

“Well, I’m not part of the body, because I’m not _____”

Now – **people SAY this** (of **FEEL this**)
for a **lot** of **Different Reasons**

But – **I need to tell you** gently –
NONE of the Reasons people **say** this – are **HEALTHY**

When **GRANT SCHAUL** taught **this section** for us –
He **called this** the

“Nobody Needs Me Attitude”

& – **isn’t this** a **bit** of an **OFFENSE to GOD**

Because **God says** he has **given EACH ONE** of us
A GIFT – to **HELP each other** (in V.7)

& **isn’t it** maybe Just a **LITTLE BIT**
GRIEVING to the **Holy Spirit**

Since - 1 Corinthians 12:11 (NLT)

11 It is the one and only Spirit (Holy Spirit) who distributes all these gifts. He alone decides which gift each person should have.

**I think it's at least a LITTLE RUDE to say to the Holy Spirit
*"YOU didn't Make ME a Functioning Part of the Body"***

You might say

"Well ALL I can do is PRAY"

But – **if you think it's alright to say**

"ALL I can do is PRAY"

Then **you may not fully understand**

the **POWER & the IMPORTANCE - of PRAYER**

EVERY PART of the Body is REQUIRED

For the **Body to Function Correctly**

& **God says he has made EACH one of us**

To **BE – a FUNCTIONING PART of the Body**

Again - 1 Corinthians 12:15–16 (NLT)

15 If the foot says, "I am not a part of the body because I am not a hand," that does not make it any less a part of the body.

16 And if the ear says, "I am not part of the body because I am not an eye," would that make it any less a part of the body?

We are ALL - Part of the Body

& **we are ALL NECESSARY**

For the Body - to Function Properly

So the **FIRST - DAMAGING ATTITUDE**

We've **GOT to correct** in our **Own Hearts** – is

The ***“Nobody Needs Me”*** Attitude

The **SECOND - DAMAGING ATTITUDE**

We've **GOT to correct** in our **Own Hearts** – is

The ***“I Don't Need Anybody”*** Attitude

This **FALSE PERCEPTION**

is **JUST AS Damaging** as the **FIRST**

We see it in 1 Corinthians 12:17–19 (NLT)

17 If the whole body were an eye, how would you hear? Or if your whole body were an ear, how would you smell anything?

18 But our bodies have many parts, and God has put each part just where he wants it.

19 How strange a body would be if it had only one part!

If **you struggle** with this **FALSE PERCEPTION**

That ***“You Don't Need Anybody Else”*** in the **Body of Christ**

IMAGINE saying to yourself

“Well, my HEAD is most important, so I'm going to DO AWAY with the REST of my Body”

Do Not TRY THIS yourself at **home** - It will **NOT Go Well**

Not EVEN – Any **One MEMBER** of the **GODHEAD**
Thinks they **can** “**Do it All Alone**”

HOW MUCH PRIDE does it **take**
For US to **Think** – that **WE can** do it all alone?

Cont'g in - 1 Corinthians 12:20–22 (NLT)

20 Yes, there are many parts, but only one body.

21 The eye can never say to the hand, “I don’t need you.” The head can’t say to the feet, “I don’t need you.”

22 In fact, some parts of the body that seem weakest and least important are actually the most necessary.

Can I BYPASS the “**Physical Analogy**” here
& **go Straight** to **OUR** particular “**Body of Christ**” ?

THIS church was **STARTED**

By **FIVE Older WOMEN** – **Sitting** is a **Circle** – **PRAYING**

& they **Prayed EVERY WEEK**

That **GOD** would **start** a **Spirit Filled Church** in this **Town**

Because there **WAS NONE**

AND – they had **witnessed FIVE churches Come & Go**
In the **Previous Years**

I wasn't LOOKING to Start another Church

I didn't Necessarily WANT to Start another Church

BUT – those Women PRAYED

& GOD started this church – in RESPONSE to their PRAYERS

As V.22 here says

*The PARTS of this Body – that you SEE the LEAST
Are actually the MOST NECESSARY*

The Work that is done - when NO ONE is Looking

Is the Work that is MOST IMPORTANT

The Work that is done - when NO ONE is Looking

Is the Work that actually keeps the Church GOING

The CLEANING MINISTRY

that meets here on Thursday

Is one of THE MOST VITAL Ministries in the Church

Because YOU wouldn't

come into this Building WITHOUT THAT Ministry (esp after youth)

& guys – a Minimum of 20 PEOPLE – Have to Make

a Commitment to the Lord – EVERY SUNDAY

for the Doors of this little church to open

& the **Vast Majority** of them – are **NOT SEEN**
& they **Don't Get** - **Enough CREDIT**

AS V.22 says

... some parts of the body that seem weakest and least important are actually the most necessary.

& this Truth is cont'd in 1 Corinthians 12:23–24 (NLT)

23 And the parts we regard as less honorable are those we clothe with the greatest care. So we carefully protect those parts that should not be seen, 24 while the more honorable parts do not require this special care . . .

24 . . . So God has put the body together such that extra honor and care are given to those parts that have less [honor] (dignity).

& **So** - **WHAT** is **God's PURPOSE** in **all this**

WHAT is **God's GOAL** in **this** –
For Us - **AS** the **Body of Christ**

1 Corinthians 12:25 tells us (NLT)

25 This makes for harmony among the members, so that all the members care for each other.

THIS is **GOD'S PURPOSE** - for **EACH ONE** of **us** –
becoming **FUNCTIONING PARTS** of the **Body**

Because it makes for HARMONY among the members

& God **CALLS US** to **HARMONY** & **UNITY** - in **the BODY**

God REQUIRES From **EACH** of **US** –
HARMONY & **UNITY** - in **the BODY**

& **AS** - **EACH** of **us** – **DO OUR PART**
To **TRULY CARE** for **One Another**

It will **create** **HARMONY** & **UNITY** in the **Body**

& THAT is What God Requires of us

We have **been BAPTIZED** into **ONE Body**
By **ONE Spirit** - & By **ONE Lord**

& So - 1 Corinthians 12:26 (NLT)

26 If one part suffers, all the parts suffer with it, and if one part is honored, all the parts are glad.

THIS is what we are **ALL CALLED TO**
ALL for **ONE** - & **ONE** for **ALL** . . .

JUST LIKE – the Three Musketeers

THIS is **God's REQUIREMENT** of us

BECAUSE our final Vs says - **1 Corinthians 12:27 (NLT)**

27 All of you together are Christ's body, and each of you is a part of it. - - [REPEAT]

If you have made Jesus YOUR LORD
YOU are PART of the Body of Christ

& God has Given you a GIFT
BY the Holy Spirit

To be a FUNCTIONING PART
of the Body of Christ

& I know – Some of you may say, *Well*
WHAT should I DO?
HOW do I become a FUNCTIONING PART of the Body

& I would say to you,

FIRST – REMEMBER WHY
you have been MADE part of the Body

Again - 1 Corinthians 12:25 tells us (NLT)
25 This makes for harmony among the members, so that all the members care for each other.

THERE is our #1 GOAL - & our #1 PRIORITY

HELP Make HARMONY & UNITY among the Body
& make sure you are CARING for Each Other

Let's Pray