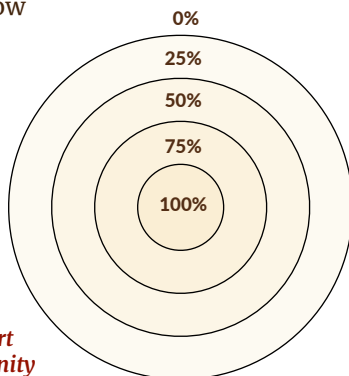


HAMMER IT HOME: Live the Text and Do the Truth

1. Having a sense of belonging is important. We can **know** and **affirm** the biblical truth that every member matters, but not necessarily **experience** that truth.

Connection Exercise: Though this exercise is subjective, it can be very helpful practically. Using the multiple ring circle below, place yourself on the circle as it relates to how connected you feel...

...to the Cedar Hill Family
...to your LifeGroup
...to other groups or ministry teams at Cedar Hill



Membership
"To feel accepted and a part
of the team or community
—to belong"

2. Depending on where you placed yourself, what step(s) can you take (and/or what can we do together) to have a greater sense of connection?
3. Mutual care is a biblical responsibility. In the body of Christ, we **are** our brother's keeper. Specifically, Paul says **we are to suffer with one another and rejoice with one another**. How can we live out this one another more effectively?

HIDE IT IN OUR HEARTS: Linger in the Text and Let it Dwell Richly

Paul instructs us to "let the word of Christ dwell within us richly." (Col. 3:16) May this Word of Christ find good soil in our hearts as we memorize and meditate upon it until our next LifeGroup gathering.

"But God has so composed the body,
...that the members may have the same care for one another."

—1 Corinthians 12:24b-25



Sunday, July 8, 2018



Care for One Another

"But God has so composed the body,
...that the members may have the same care for one another."

—1 Corinthians 12:24b-25

HEAR IT: Listen to the Text and Discover the Truth

1A. EVERY MEMBER _____.

"For the body is not one member, but **many**."

- You _____ in the body..." (v. 15-17)

"If the foot says, 'Because I am not a hand, I am not a part of the body,' it is not for this reason any the less a part of the body. And if the ear says, 'Because I am not an eye, I am not a part of the body,' it is not for this reason any the less a part of the body. **If the whole body were an eye, where would the hearing be? If the whole were hearing, where would the sense of smell be?**" (v. 15-17)

- "...because God has _____ you in the body where He _____ you in the body..." (v. 18)

"But now God has placed the members, each one of them, in the body, just as He desired." (v. 18)

- "...and you are _____ to the body." (v. 19-24a)

"...And the eye cannot say to the hand, 'I have no need of you'; or again the head to the feet, 'I have no need of you.' On the contrary, **it is much truer that the members of the body which seem to be weaker are necessary...**"

DON'T SWITCH THE PRICE TAGS!

2A. EVERY MEMBER _____.

*"But God has so composed the body, giving more abundant honor to that member which lacked, **so that there may be no division in the body, but that the members may have the same care for one another.** And if one member suffers, all the members suffer with it; if one member is honored, all the members rejoice with it."*

Providing care in the body of Christ is not the _____ responsibility of pastors or elders or deacons and their spouses, but is the _____ responsibility of every member of the body. The church is to be God's ICU (Intensive Care Unit)—ministering healing to those who have been traumatized by sin and suffering, distress and discouragement.

The word, "**care**" is sometimes translated as **worry**, **anxiety** or **concern**. Whether it is used in a negative or positive way is determined by the context. The word is found 25 times in the New Testament, most of which are used in a negative sense.

*"So do not **worry** about tomorrow; for tomorrow will **care** for itself. Each day has enough trouble of its own."*

—Matthew 6:34

*"...but the **worries** of the world, and the deceitfulness of riches, and the desires for other things enter in and choke the word and it becomes unfruitful."*

—Mark 4:19

*"Apart from such external things, there is the daily pressure on me of **concern** for all the church."*

—2 Corinthians 11:28

*"For I have no one else of kindred spirit who will genuinely **be concerned** for your welfare."*

—Philippians 2:20

*"Be **anxious** for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God."*

—Philippians 4:6

*"...casting all your **anxiety** on Him, because He cares for you."*

—1 Peter 5:7

HASH IT OUT: Look into the Text and Develop the Truth

1. In teaching the first truth—**every member matters**—Paul addresses the issues of "**belonging**" and "**value**." The Scriptures teach us that every member belongs and every member has value. But in the city of Corinth the church had been valuing some members and devaluing others.

*"...if the ear says, 'Because I am not an eye, I am not a part of the body,' it is not for this reason any the less a part of the body. **If the whole body were an eye**, where would the hearing be?"*

Does this occur in the body of Christ today, either intentionally or unintentionally? If so, why and how?

2. The metaphor that Paul uses in this passage to describe the church is **the body**. There are several other metaphors that are used in the New Testament to describe the church. **Can you name a few of them and where they might be found?**

Why do you think that Paul uses **the metaphor of the body** in this passage? Why does it best illustrate his point?

3. Paul introduces **the principle of sovereignty** into the equation in verse 18. *"God has placed the members... just as He desired."* (v. 18) How should this affect our attitude toward our place and purpose in the body?

4. In teaching this second truth—**every member ministers**—Paul addresses the issues of "**connection**" and "**care**." The opposite of division is not just "**being in**" the body, but it is "**functioning as**" a body—genuine care.

According to 1 Peter 5:7 and Philippians 4:7, what are we to do with **our** cares and concerns?

Paul identified Timothy as a rare breed one who **genuinely cared** for others (see Philippians 2:20). Why are such individuals so rare? Who might you know that would fit that description?