



## 1 CORINTHIANS 12:12-31

### Community Group Study Guide Week of July 28, 2019

This week we looked at the second half of 1 Corinthians 12 where Paul furthers our understanding of the spiritual gifts by relating people with different gifting to different parts of the body. "For just as the body is one and has many members, and all the members of the body, though many are one body, so it is with Christ." Verse 12 sums up the balance Paul is striking. The different giftings cannot negate the unity in the church, in the same way that a body having a hand, eye, and ear, doesn't negate the unity of a body. On the contrary, the body is only able to survive and function properly by having all the different members. As Christians, we are called to welcome, love and value our brothers and sisters who have different giftings than ourselves. We are called to both "like" and "love" each other.

Our tendency is often to find those who are similar to us, and be surrounded by them. When we do this, we limit the Holy Spirit from blessing and challenging us to grow in the diversity of gifts in the Church. Pastor Jan challenged us to find our "anti-doppelgänger," the person most opposite to who we are, saying that they will help us to grow and learn more than anyone else. It is often uncomfortable for us to step outside our little friend "bubble," let alone for the purpose of building friendship with someone drastically different from ourselves. But if we want to be unified in Christ and experience the blessing that comes with all the different spiritual gifts, we need to know different members of the body.

As a Christian, you have been gifted by the Holy Spirit. Are we using these gifts to serve Christ and His Church? Paul says in verse 26, "if one member suffers, all suffer together, if one member is honored, all rejoice together." Are we willing to go to a suffering member and help them, guide them, serve them? Are we willing to receive that help from the body when we are suffering? When we see another member being honored do we get jealous or harbor anger against them, or do we truly celebrate what God is doing in and through them? When we are honored, do we look down on others, and hold that honor for ourselves, or do we recognize that our honoring is only because of Christ and His body as a whole? Are we willing to share that honor with others? It can be difficult to live as a unified body, but when we do, we function at a level we never could on our own. Christ has built His church this way for our health, our growth, the spread of the Gospel, and ultimately for the glory of God.

### DISCUSSION GOALS

#### Head

To understand that the Church is one body and recognize the role each of us has in the body.

#### Heart

To love the role God has given you in the church, and to love those different than you for the value God has given them to the body.

#### Hands

To use our gifts to support the body, to spread the Gospel, and to bestow honor on other members of the body.

### ANNOUNCEMENTS

#### Membership or Baptism:

Contact [admin@mosaicboston.com](mailto:admin@mosaicboston.com) to sign up for our next membership class or learn more about baptism.

#### Mosaic JP:

Please keep Mosaic JP and other faithful Boston church plants in your prayers. If your CG would like to serve Mosaic JP together on a Sunday please contact [andy@mosaicboston.com](mailto:andy@mosaicboston.com).

## DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

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### Read 1 Corinthians 12:12-31

- Pastor Jan opened with the story of “Rat Park” where rats were given two water bottles, one with just water, and another laced with drugs. Isolated rats tended to drink from the drug-laced water to the point of overdose, while rats in a community preferred the regular water. Have we seen the power of community to help guide us for good in our lives? Why do we think community has this kind of influence on us?
- We often think of unity as uniformity or sameness. Paul talks about the diversity of the body as inherent to the body's unity. How does this analogy change or inform our understanding of godly unity?
- In verses 14-20 Paul addresses different parts of the body (i.e. foot, ear) saying that because they aren't a different part of the body, “I do not belong to the body.” How does Paul's response to this inform your understanding of your own value to the church?
- In verses 21-26 Paul addresses the situation where one part of the body says, “I have no need of you” to another part. What danger is there in this statement? How does this challenge us relate to people at the church differently?
- Have you seen an example of a time when the body was functioning well and what resulted from it? Have you seen a time when this unity wasn't lived out and what resulted from it?
- How do we “suffer together” when one member is suffering, and how do we “rejoice together” when one member is honored? Do you struggle with helping those suffering or receiving help when you are suffering? Do you struggle with rejoicing when someone else is being honored or giving honor to others when you are honored?
- What other comments or questions did you have about the text or sermon? Was there anything else that really stood out, convicted, challenged or encouraged you?