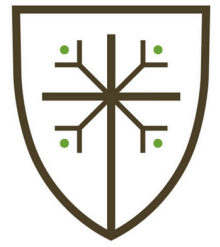


# Lacking Nothing

A Sermon Series on 1 Corinthians

## SERMON NOTES



July 20, 2025

### SERMON INFO

#### TITLE

"The Anatomy of Christ's Body"

#### PREACHER

Rev. David Vilches

#### TEXTS

Isaiah 62:1-4; 11-12  
1 Corinthians 12:12-27  
John 13:31-35

### DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. How does the church today most often fall into the practice of "amputating" parts of the Body of Christ like the Corinthian church?
2. What comfort is there in knowing that God has already arranged each member for the mutually flourishing of one another?

### SERMON IN SUMMARY

This week, David Vilches continued our series in 1 Corinthians with the question, "What does it take to belong to one another as members of the one Body of Christ?"

#### Amputation

The word Paul uses here for division also shows up at Jesus' baptism when the skies are opened and at his death when the veil in the temple is torn in two. It implies the ripping apart of something that is supposed to be together. David highlighted three ways we amputate within the body of Christ. The first is by cutting off ourselves from the body. We do this when we have either too high or too low a view of ourself and say, "I don't belong here."

The second type of amputation in Christ's body is when we cut off not ourselves but others from the body. We treat them according to whether or not we think they add value as individuals to the whole. In so doing, we cut apart what God has made one.

The last, and often most widespread and damaging type of amputation we see in the body is dividing by categorizing people into different segments of value. We place greater value on one part of the body instead of seeing and valuing one another as Christ sees and values us with our different capacities and giftings. Our value, and our neighbors value, is not bound up in what we do or fail to do, but in who we already are to God – his beloved children.

#### Anatomy

Paul's metaphor goes further and elaborates on the nature of the unity of the body and how all its component parts work together. We all have a shared identity and mission - being children of God in Christ by the Holy Spirit and re-presenting our Heavenly Father to the world. This identity and mission is ours in Christ because it was also his identity and mission.

The anatomy and mission of the body operate both from the particular to the corporate and the corporate to the particular. God arranged the members, each one as he chose, with particular roles and functions but they are for the flourishing of the entire body. You are placed where you are not just for you but for the glory of God and the common good. God also knitted us together into one unified whole. He created us to fit together, to depend upon one another, to care, suffer, and rejoice with and for one another.

#### Atonement

We find that we struggle to "fit together" like this even with those closest to us, let alone strangers and those different from us. Paul knows this and reminds us that the only way forward is through Christ who empowers his body to press onward. In the last section of this chapter, Paul states that you are the Body of Christ – declaring what we already are because of the atoning work of Christ on our behalf. Christ received our lostness and wandering, and was cut off from his Father that we, the many members of his Body, might be gathered to our Heavenly Father. Therefore, we belong to God and to one another as members of the same body.