

# Together

The Body 8/27/2023

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## Icebreaker

What part of your body could you most live without? —OR—  
What part of your body would be most difficult to lose?

## Step 1 - GET REAL

What are you thankful for from the past week?  
What struggles did you face?  
What can you share from your personal Bible reading? (other than the designated reading)  
Where did you see God in your daily life?

## Step 2: GET FED

### Scripture

*Acts 2:40-47 (ESV)* <sup>40</sup> And with many other words he bore witness and continued to exhort them, saying, “Save yourselves from this crooked generation.” <sup>41</sup> So those who received his word were baptized, and there were added that day about three thousand souls. <sup>42</sup> And they devoted themselves to the apostles’ teaching and the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers. <sup>43</sup> And awe came upon every soul, and many wonders and signs were being done through the apostles. <sup>44</sup> And all who believed were together and had all things in common. <sup>45</sup> And they were selling their possessions and belongings and distributing the proceeds to all, as any had need. <sup>46</sup> And day by day, attending the temple together and breaking bread in their homes, they received their food with glad and generous hearts, <sup>47</sup> praising God and having favor with all the people. And the Lord added to their number day by day those who were being saved.

### Discussion Questions

To what was the new church devoted? (vs. 42)  
To what extent do you think this led to unity in the church?  
What do you think it means to be devoted to “the fellowship”?  
“They were together, had all things in common, distributed to any who had need, attended the temple together, broke bread in their homes, and praised God together.” If the church did this today, what change would there be in our lives?  
If one of our goals is to restore New Testament Christianity, should we emulate these actions today?  
What effect did the actions of the church have on “the people”? (vs 47)  
Is the church today having this effect on “the people”?  
What could we do today that could have the same effect on “the people”?

## Scripture

*1 Corinthians 12:14-27 (ESV)* <sup>14</sup> For the body does not consist of one member but of many. <sup>15</sup> If the foot should say, "Because I am not a hand, I do not belong to the body," that would not make it any less a part of the body. <sup>16</sup> And if the ear should say, "Because I am not an eye, I do not belong to the body," that would not make it any less a part of the body. <sup>17</sup> If the whole body were an eye, where would be the sense of hearing? If the whole body were an ear, where would be the sense of smell? <sup>18</sup> But as it is, God arranged the members in the body, each one of them, as he chose. <sup>19</sup> If all were a single member, where would the body be? <sup>20</sup> As it is, there are many parts, yet one body. <sup>21</sup> The eye cannot say to the hand, "I have no need of you," nor again the head to the feet, "I have no need of you." <sup>22</sup> On the contrary, the parts of the body that seem to be weaker are indispensable, <sup>23</sup> and on those parts of the body that we think less honorable we bestow the greater honor, and our unpresentable parts are treated with greater modesty, <sup>24</sup> which our more presentable parts do not require. But God has so composed the body, giving greater honor to the part that lacked it, <sup>25</sup> that there may be no division in the body, but that the members may have the same care for one another. <sup>26</sup> If one member suffers, all suffer together; if one member is honored, all rejoice together. <sup>27</sup> Now you are the body of Christ and individually members of it.

## Discussion Questions

How is each one of us a part of the body?

Which part of the body do you think you are? Why? Would you rather be another part of the body?

Who arranged each of us in the body? (vs. 18)

Why has God composed the body in this way? (vs, 25)

What happens if one member suffers? If one member rejoices? (vs. 25) Do you find this true in the body today?

What would we lose by trying to have Jesus without the church?

What would be the disadvantage of disconnecting ourselves from the body and trying to follow Jesus alone?

## Step 3: GET ACTIVE

Evaluate your participation in the fellowship as compared to the early church.

Attempt to have more fellowship with the body this week.

Reflect on your particular role in the body. Write out what you think your role in the body should be.