

Belonging To The Body 1 Corinthians 12:12-27

I. Intro

● Anecdote

- Amputation
 - It was September of 2023 - when a Reddit user named Orukusaki decided to share some graphic photos of his amputated leg.
 - Orukusaki was in a serious accident back in October 2022 - which damaged his ankle beyond repair.
 - Then - after more than 12 botched surgeries - his doctors finally decided to amputate his leg.
 - After the amputation was over - the amputee asked for the remains his severed leg - citing his religious beliefs as the reason for the request.
 - According to Orukusaki - he must be buried whole - at the time of his death.
 - And it's for this reason that he was able to keep what was left of his amputated leg.
- Pics
 - Well - after receiving what was left of his leg - Orukusaki placed the limb in a glass jar.
 - And then he decided to take some gruesome pics - in order to post them on Reddit - for all to see.
 - And as we consider the reason he gave - for why he wanted keep his severed leg...

- ...we should take a moment to ask - was his amputated leg - still part of his body?
- In other words - if a person loses a limb - - like an arm - or a leg - - is it still part of their body - - and the answer is - yes and no.
- And while it's true that an amputated appendage is still their body part...
- ...it's also true that it's a body part that is no longer a functioning part of the body.

II. Outline

● Points

- Belong
- With all of this in mind - we're going to spend our time today - considering what it means - to belong to the body of Christ.
- And while it's true that a believer doesn't need to plug in to their fellowship of faith - in order to be a Christian...
- ...it's also true that the Christian who fails to plug in to their Christian community - is comparable to an amputated appendage.
- In order to make my case - let's consider the point that Paul was making here in our text today - where we learn that...
 1. ...Christians belong to the Body of Christ - through our Connection
 2. ...Christians belong to the Body of Christ - through our Cooperation
 3. ...Christians belong to the Body of Christ - through our Conviction
- With this as our outline - let's open our Bibles to 1st Corinthians chapter 12...

- ...where we find Paul - helping the Christians in Corinth to understand that they were a body of believers.

III. Connection

● Set up

- Context
- As we make our way to the 12th chapter of 1st Corinthians - I wanna take a moment to put our text - back into it's context.
- We just spent the last 8 week - studying the spiritual gifts that the Holy Spirit distributed to those who trust in Jesus.
- I should also point out that - Paul presented 8 more spiritual gifts in the final section of this chapter.
- But before presenting that second list of charismatic gifts - Paul took the time to help his audience understand that...
- ...the distribution of these gifts helps the members of every church to function like a body of believers.
- And with this as our focus - - we're going to spend our time today - considering how believers benefit from the body.
- Let's pick up our study of 1st Corinthians 12 - beginning there at verse 12 - where Paul declared...

● Text

1Co 12:12 For as the body is one and has many members, but all the members of that one body, being many, are one body, so also is Christ.

1Co 12:13 For by one Spirit we were all baptized into one body—whether Jews or Greeks, whether slaves or free—and have all been made to drink into one Spirit.

1Co 12:14 For in fact the body is not one member but many.

1Co 12:15 If the foot should say, "Because I am not a hand, I am not of the body," is it therefore not of the body?

1Co 12:16 And if the ear should say, "Because I am not an eye, I am not of the body," is it therefore not of the body?

1Co 12:17 If the whole body were an eye, where would be the hearing? If the whole were hearing, where would be the smelling?

1Co 12:18 But now God has set the members, each one of them, in the body just as He pleased.

1Co 12:19 And if they were all one member, where would the body be?

1Co 12:20 But now indeed there are many members, yet one body.

1Co 12:21 And 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."

1Co 12:22 No, much rather, those members of the body which seem to be weaker are necessary.

1Co 12:23 And those members of the body which we think to be less honorable, on these we bestow greater honor; and our unpresentable parts have greater modesty,

1Co 12:24 but our presentable parts have no need. But God composed the body, having given greater honor to that part which lacks it,

1Co 12:25 that there should be no schism in the body, but that the members should have the same care for one another.

1Co 12:26 And if one member suffers, all the members suffer with it; or if one member is honored, all the members rejoice with it.

1Co 12:27 Now you are the body of Christ, and members individually.

- Body
- Here in these verses - we find Paul - comparing the church in Corinth - to a physical body - which is made up of many different members.
- That word - body - which we find 18 times in these verses - was translated from the Greek word - soma...
- ...and - soma - was typically used of the physical body of both animals - and humans.
- The same Greek word was used tropically - in reference to a group of people - closely united into a single society.
- And in the context of this passage - Paul was using the word - soma - in reference to the society that we call the Christian church.

- It's for this reason that many scholars refer to the church - as the mystical body of Christ.

- The Head

- I like the way that Paul explained it - when he described Jesus - as the head of the church.

- It's in Colossians chapter 1 - verse 18 - where he referred to Jesus as...

Col 1:18 ...the head of **the body, the church**, who is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, that in all things He may have the preeminence.

- From this - we can see that the church is the mystical body of Christ.
- And seeing how the Lord Jesus is the head of the body - it's crucial for every Christian to remember that....
- ...we are here to accomplish our Savior's will - - according to great commission of Christ.
- And much like the members of our own body - that are supposed to function according to the will of our mind...
- ...the members of Christ's mystical body - should also function according to the will of our Messiah.

- Members

- Just to be clear - let's consider how Paul referred to every Christian as members of Christ's body.
- Look with me again - there at verse 12 - where Paul declared...

1Co 12:12 For as the body is one and has many members, but all the members of that one body, being many, are one body, so also is Christ.

- Now - that word - members - was translated from a Greek word - which was used in reference to the different parts of the body.
- And while this word was typically used of the appendages that make up a human body...
- ...Paul was using this word - metaphorically - in reference to the members of Christ's mystical body.
- What this means is that - those who have placed their faith in the Lord Jesus Christ...
- ...have also become the members that make up the body of Christ.
- Baptized
- Let's consider how Paul explained it - here in our text today - look with me again - beginning there at verse 12 - where he declared...

1Co 12:12 For as the body is one and has many members, but all the members of that one body, being many, are one body, so also is Christ.

1Co 12:13 For by one Spirit we were all baptized into one body—whether Jews or Greeks, whether slaves or free—and have all been made to drink into one Spirit.
- Here in these verses - we find Paul - helping his audience to understand that...
- ...the members of Christ's mystical body - have been baptized into one body.
- Just to be clear - Paul was NOT referring to the water baptism of John - no - instead...
- ...he was referring to the spiritual baptism that takes place at the moment of our conversion to Christ.
- And with this as our focus - let's consider how this spiritual baptism is the basis for our Christian connection.

- Into
 - That word - baptized - found there in verse 13 - was translated from a Greek word which means - to fully immerse - or to submerge.
 - And while we typically associate this word with the sacrament of water baptism...
 - ...we must not fail to notice that Paul wasn't talking about water baptism...
 - ...no - instead - he was referring to those who are - baptized - or - fully immersed INTO the mystical body of Christ.
 - This spiritual baptism actually takes place - at the very moment of our Christian conversion.
 - And what this means is that - every believer has been baptized into the same body.
- Every
 - Notice with me again - there in verse 13 - where Paul declared...

1Co 12:13 For by one Spirit we were all baptized into one body—whether Jews or Greeks, whether slaves or free—and have all been made to drink into one Spirit.
 - Here in this verse - we find Paul - elaborating on the fact that - EVERY believer has been baptized into one body.
 - Paul presented this truth - by assuring his audience that this is true of both Jews AND Greeks.
 - Not only that - but he also informed us that this is also true of those who are slaves - and those who are free.

- In other words - every Christian has been baptized into the body of Christ - regardless of race - and no matter their social status.
- And in this way - we've all been connected together - by our faith in Jesus Christ.
- Drink
 - Not only that - but - Christians are also connected through the living water of the Holy Spirit.
 - Let's consider how Paul put it - here in 1st Corinthians chapter 12 - look with me again - beginning there at verse 13 - it's there where he declared...

1Co 12:13 For by one Spirit we were all baptized into one body—whether Jews or Greeks, whether slaves or free—and have all been made to drink into one Spirit.

1Co 12:14 For in fact the body is not one member but many.
 - Here in these verses - we find Paul helping his audience to understand that - we've all consumed the same spiritual drink.
 - Now - in order to understand how every believer has been made to drink into one Spirit...
 - ...let's consider the promise that the Lord Jesus presented - on the last day of the feast of tabernacles.
 - Hold your place here in 1st Corinthians - and let's turn in our Bibles to the gospel of John - and more specifically - John chapter 7.
 - It's here in the 7th chapter of John's gospel account - where we find Jesus - inviting people to receive the living water of the Holy Spirit.
- Water
 - Let's consider John's account - found here in John chapter 7 - look with me beginning there at verse 37 - where we learn that it was...

Jhn 7:37 On the last day, that great day of the feast, Jesus stood and cried out, saying, "If anyone thirsts, let him come to Me and drink.

Jhn 7:38 "He who believes in Me, as the Scripture has said, out of his heart will flow rivers of living water."

Jhn 7:39 But this He spoke concerning the Spirit, whom those believing in Him would receive; for the Holy Spirit was not yet given, because Jesus was not yet glorified.

- Here in these verses - we find the Lord Jesus - speaking to those who were gathered together for the feast of tabernacles.
 - And according to tradition - the priests would draw water from the Pool of Siloam and bring it to the Temple...
 - ...where the water was then poured out on the altar - as a libation offering - alongside the daily sacrifice.
 - As this was happening - the Lord Jesus encouraged His audience to realize that - He was offering them - living water.
 - And according to John - the living water was actually a reference to the Holy Spirit.
 - Holy Spirit
 - Look with me again - there at John chapter 7 - it's verse 39 - where the Apostle John described this living water - by informing us that Jesus...
- Jhn 7:39 ...spoke concerning the Spirit, whom those believing in Him would receive; for the Holy Spirit was not yet given, because Jesus was not yet glorified.
- The Holy Spirit is the living water that quenches our spiritual thirst - as those who trust in Jesus - drink into the same Spirit.
 - Not only that - - the Holy Spirit is also the living water - Who overflows from our lives...
 - ...as we use our Charismatic gifts - to bless the believers who are here in our fellowship of faith.

- And in this way - the Holy Spirit connects us with the Christians who are here in this body of believers.

● Application

- One Another
- I like the way that Paul summed it up in Romans chapter 12 - it's beginning at verse 4 - where he declared...

Rom 12:4 For as we have many members in one body, but all the members do not have the same function,

Rom 12:5 so we, being many, are one body in Christ, and individually members of one another.

- The body of Christ - which has many different members that each have different functions...
- ...is still one body - according to the spiritual connection that we have - by faith in Jesus Christ.
- And while it's true that our connection is based on the spiritual baptism we received at the moment of our Christian conversion...
- ...it's also true that this connection is also a physical connection that must be realized within the context of the local church.
- Otherwise - we become more like the amputated body part - that is no longer functioning in the way that it should.

● Transition

- Points
- Now - this brings us to our second point - because listen...
- 1. ...we not only belong to the Body of Christ - through our Connection...

2. ...but - we also belong to the Body of Christ - through our Cooperation

- With this as our focus - let's turn back to 1st Corinthians chapter 12...
- ...where we find Paul - helping the Christians in Corinth to understand how we should cooperate with one another.
- Look with me again - beginning there at verse 15 - where Paul declared...

IV. Cooperation

● Text

1Co 12:15 If the foot should say, "Because I am not a hand, I am not of the body," is it therefore not of the body?

1Co 12:16 And if the ear should say, "Because I am not an eye, I am not of the body," is it therefore not of the body?

1Co 12:17 If the whole body were an eye, where would be the hearing? If the whole were hearing, where would be the smelling?

1Co 12:18 But now God has set the members, each one of them, in the body just as He pleased.

1Co 12:19 And if they were all one member, where would the body be?

• Parts

- Here in these verses - we find Paul - continuing to present a parallel...
- ...between the individual members of a human body - and the members of the mystical body of Christ.
- And he began by asking - If the foot should say, "Because I am not a hand, I am not of the body," is it therefore not of the body?
- Paul expanded on his point by asking - if the ear should say, "Because I am not an eye, I am not of the body," is it therefore not of the body?
- With these questions in mind - it's important for us to understand that - the church is a body of believers...

- ...and as such - the individual members are equally important for the body to function properly.
- And it's for this reason that we should all learn to be content - with our calling in Christ.
- Envy
 - Christian - listen - you might be the foot of the church - who is envious of the hands.
 - You might be the ear of the church - who has become envious of the eyes.
 - You might be a Christian who is failing to fulfill your calling in Christ - because...
 - ...you're too busy being envious of another believer - who has been called to do something that you want to do.
 - And it's sad to say that there are many churches that have been handicapped by Christians...
 - ...who would rather do NOTHING - than to spend time serving our Savior - according to the spiritual gifts that we've received.
- Pleased
 - Let's consider again how Paul addressed this - here in 1st Corinthians 12 - look with me again - there at verse 17 - where he asked...

1Co 12:17 If the whole body were an eye, where would be the hearing? If the whole were hearing, where would be the smelling?

1Co 12:18 But now God has set the members, each one of them, in the body just as He pleased.
 - Much like the human body - which functions best - when all the members are doing what they were designed to do...

- ...the mystical body of Christ also functions best - when every member is serving our Savior - according to our calling.
- And just to be clear about this - we should take a moment to consider the connection between our calling...
- ...and the charismatic gifts that we've received from the Holy Spirit.
 - The reason why is because - our spiritual gifts enable us to accomplish our calling in Christ.
- Function
 - Let's consider how Paul explained it - in Romans chapter 12 - it's beginning at verse 3 - where he declared...

Rom 12:3 For I say, through the grace given to me, to everyone who is among you, not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think, but to think soberly, as God has dealt to each one a measure of faith.

Rom 12:4 For as we have many members in one body, but all the members do not have the same function,

Rom 12:5 so we, being many, are one body in Christ, and individually members of one another.

Rom 12:6 Having then gifts differing according to the grace that is given to us, let us use them: if prophecy, let us prophesy in proportion to our faith;

Rom 12:7 or ministry, let us use it in our ministering; he who teaches, in teaching;

Rom 12:8 he who exhorts, in exhortation; he who gives, with liberality; he who leads, with diligence; he who shows mercy, with cheerfulness.

- From this - we can see that the members of Christ's mystical body - have received spiritual gifts - that enable us to serve our Savior.
- And there should be no doubt that the Holy Spirit has given us the charismatic gifts that we need...
- ...so that we can become believers - who are able to fulfill the function that the Lord is calling us to accomplish.

- That being the case - the Christian who wants understand where they belong in the body of Christ...
- ...should spend time considering which charismatic gifts they've received from the Holy Spirit.
- Body
 - With this as the goal - let's consider again how Paul put it - here in our text today.
 - Look with me again - there at verse 19 - where Paul declared...

1Co 12:19 And if they were all one member, where would the body be?

 - Christian - listen - if we all serve the same function here at Calvary South Austin...
 - ...then - we wouldn't be able to accomplish much of anything at all.
 - Imagine for a moment that your whole body was made up of ears - - or arms.
 - What would you be able to accomplish - if your whole body was made up of noses - toes.
 - Not only would this be weird - - but - we wouldn't be able function in the way that a body is supposed to function.
- Parts
 - In order to further explain my point - let's consider the way that Paul put it - in his letter to the church in Ephesus.
 - Hold your place here in 1st Corinthians - and let's turn in our Bibles to Ephesians chapter 4.
 - And as we make our way to the fourth chapter of Ephesians - I wanna take a moment to point out that...

- ...the human body not only includes the Head - neck - torso - arms - and legs...
- ...but - there are also 78 organs including the Heart - brain - lungs - liver, and kidneys.
- Let's not forget about the Skeletal system - which is made up of 206 distinct bones...
- ...and a Muscular system that includes at least 600 skeletal muscles.

- Ligaments

- What's even more is that - our bodies couldn't function properly - without our ligaments.
- You might not know this - but - the human body has more than 900 ligaments.
- Just to be clear - ligaments are tough bands of fibrous tissue that connect bone to bone.
- Ligaments also stabilize our joints and support internal organs.
- And listen - these ligaments are crucial for keeping our body parts connected - and cooperating in the way that they should.
- And with all of this in mind - let's consider how the mystical body of Christ is also made up of many members...
- ...that all need to cooperate together - in order to accomplish the great commission of Christ.

- Application

- Effective

- Let's consider how Paul put it - here in Ephesians chapter 4 - look with me beginning there at verse 11 - where he declared...

Eph 4:11 And He Himself gave some to be apostles, some prophets,
some evangelists, and some pastors and teachers,

Eph 4:12 for the equipping of the saints for the work of ministry, for the
edifying of the body of Christ,

Eph 4:13 till we all come to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of
the Son of God, to a perfect man, to the measure of the stature of the
fullness of Christ;

Eph 4:14 that we should no longer be children, tossed to and fro and
carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the trickery of men, in the
cunning craftiness of deceitful plotting,

Eph 4:15 but, speaking the truth in love, may grow up in all things into
Him who is the head—Christ—

Eph 4:16 from whom the whole body, joined and knit together by what
every joint supplies, according to the effective working by which every part
does its share, causes growth of the body for the edifying of itself in love.

- Here in these verses - we find Paul - helping the Christian in Ephesus to understand that...
 - ...every Christian has been called to get equipped for the work of ministry...
 - ...so that every member of Christ's mystical body can be connected together by every supporting ligament...
 - ...so that we can function together in the way that we should.
 - And in this way - Christians cooperate according to our calling in Christ - as we become active members of our church.

● Transition

• Points

- Now - this brings us to our third and final point - because listen...

1. ...we not only belong to the Body of Christ - through our Connection...
 2. ...and - we not only belong to the Body of Christ - through Cooperation...
 3. ...but - we also belong to the Body of Christ - through our Conviction.
- With this as our focus - let's turn back to 1st Corinthians chapter 12...
 - ...where we find Paul - helping the Christians in Corinth to understand the conviction that we should all share.
 - Look with me again - beginning there at verse 20 - where Paul declared...

V. Conviction

● Text

1Co 12:20 But now indeed there are many members, yet one body.
 1Co 12:21 And 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."
 1Co 12:22 No, much rather, those members of the body which seem to be weaker are necessary.
 1Co 12:23 And those members of the body which we think to be less honorable, on these we bestow greater honor; and our unpresentable parts have greater modesty,
 1Co 12:24 but our presentable parts have no need. But God composed the body, having given greater honor to that part which lacks it,
 1Co 12:25 that there should be no schism in the body, but that the members should have the same care for one another.
 1Co 12:26 And if one member suffers, all the members suffer with it; or if one member is honored, all the members rejoice with it.

• Need

- Here in these verses - we find Paul - helping his audience to understand that it takes many different members - to make up the complete body.
- And what this means is that - every individual member of the body - is in need of the rest of the body.

- Paul illustrated this point - by insisting that - the eye cannot say to the hand, "I have no need of you".
- In similar fashion - the head cannot say to the feet, "I have no need of you."
- And as we consider how this applies to the church - it's crucial for every Christian to realize that...
- ...we need one another - in order to accomplish the great commission of Christ Jesus.
- Lone Wolf
 - What this also means is that - the believer who fails to plug into the body - is also failing to realize that we actually need other believers.
 - The lone wolf Christian - who has decided that they don't need to belong to a body of believers...
 - ...is - in effect - acting like a body part that has determined that it doesn't need the rest of the body.
 - Now - imagine for a moment that your left foot just up and decides one day that it doesn't need the rest of the body.
 - And so - it breaks off from your left leg — as it begins to make it's way down the road.
 - How far will your foot make - after severing it's connection from your leg - with it's bones - ligaments - muscles - and arteries?
 - And as ridiculous as this sound - this is the mentality of the Lone Ranger Christian.
- Conviction
 - It's for this reason that I encourage every Christian to maintain the Biblical conviction - that we need one another.

- Let's consider how Paul put it - here in our text today - look with me again - beginning there at verse 22 - where he declared...

1Co 12:22 No, much rather, those members of the body which seem to be weaker are necessary.

1Co 12:23 And those members of the body which we think to be less honorable, on these we bestow greater honor; and our unpresentable parts have greater modesty,

1Co 12:24a but our presentable parts have no need.

- Christian - listen - the powerful muscles in our arms are much stronger than our fingers...
 - ...and yet - - how many fingers are we willing to lose - simply because they aren't as strong.
 - The powerful muscles in our legs are stronger than our toes - and yet...
 - ...how many of your toes are you willing to lose - simply because they are weaker members of the body.
 - Regardless of how strong the members of our body actually are - we all have a conviction that every part of the body is important.
- Schism
 - Let's consider how Paul put it - here in 1st Corinthians chapter 12 - look with me - there in the middle of verse 24 - where he declared...

1Co 12:24b But God composed the body, having given greater honor to that part which lacks it,

1Co 12:25a that there should be no schism in the body...
 - Now - just to be clear about this - it'll help you to know that - the word - schism - was translated from a Greek word...

- ...which in this context - was used metaphorically - in reference to a division - caused by dissension.
- And as we consider the parallel that Paul was presenting - between the human body - and the mystical body of Christ...
- ...we'll all do well to protect our church from the sort of spiritual schisms - that could result in congregational divisions.
- And with this as the goal - we should care for one another - in the same way we care for our own bodies.
- Care
- Let's consider how Paul put it - here in our text today - look with me again - beginning there in the middle of verse 24 - where Paul informs us that...

1Co 12:24b ...God composed the body, having given greater honor to that part which lacks it,

1Co 12:25 that there should be no schism in the body, but that the members should have the same care for one another.

- That word - care - was translated from a Greek word - which in this context refers to those who promote the interests of another.
- What this means is that - the members of Christ's mystical body - should have equal concern for each other.
- And this is true - regardless of our place in this fellowship of faith.
- Whether your a new believer - or you've been walking with the Lord for 50 years - - we should have equal concern for one another.
- Whether we're called to sweep the floors - - or preach from the pulpit - we should have equal concern for one another.
- One/All

- Let's consider how Paul put it - here in 1st Corinthians chapter 12 - it's verse 26 where he declared...

1Co 12:26 And if one member suffers, all the members suffer with it; or if one member is honored, all the members rejoice with it.

- I'm sure we all recognize the truth of this statement - because - when one part of our body hurts - the whole body feels it.
- I went mountain biking with a group of guys yesterday - and it was during the ride when a fallen branch caught my shoe - and pinched my big toe.
- And now - every time I take a step - my whole body experiences the pain of that injury.
- It's in a similar - yet spiritual way - that the mystical body of Christ is affected - when one member is suffering.
- And it's for this reason that we should weep with those who weep - as we care for one another.
- Conviction
- In order to grasp the basis for this conviction - I wanna remind you of something Paul wrote in Romans 12 - it's verse 3 - where he declared...

Rom 12:3 For I say, through the grace given to me, to everyone who is among you, not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think, but to think soberly, as God has dealt to each one a measure of faith.

Rom 12:4 For as we have many members in one body, but all the members do not have the same function,

Rom 12:5 so we, being many, are one body in Christ, and individually members of one another.

- When it comes to the mystical body of Christ - it's crucial for Christians to remember that...
- ...we are all members of the body - that have an important function to fulfill.

- That being the case - it would be wrong for us to think of themselves more highly than they ought to think.
- It's for this reason that Paul encouraged us to think soberly - by developing a Christ-centered conviction...
 - ...which leads us to realize that - we're all equally important parts of this body - - and I pray that we all share this same conviction.
- Function?
 - It's also important for us to remember that - we've all been called to do our part - according to our calling in Christ.
 - And it's for this reason that Paul encouraged every Christian to stir up love and good works - here in our fellowship of faith.
 - With this as our focus - let's turn in our Bibles to Hebrews chapter 10 - and as we make our way to the 10th chapter of Hebrews...
 - ...we should take a moment to examine our own lives - by asking - am I fulfilling my function - here at Calvary South Austin?
 - Am I an active member who is connected to this body of believers - - or am I more like the amputated leg of Orukusaki?
 - Am I stirring others up with my spiritual gifts - - or - have I become complacent in my Christian faith?

● Application

- Exhort
 - With these questions in mind - let's consider the encouragement that Paul presented here in Hebrews chapter 10.
 - Look with me - beginning there at verse 23 - where he declared...

Heb 10:23 Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for He who promised is faithful.
Heb 10:24 And let us consider one another in order to stir up love and good works,
Heb 10:25 not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as is the manner of some, but exhorting one another, and so much the more as you see the Day approaching.

- Rather than forsaking the assembly of our Christian congregation - Paul encouraged every Christian...
- ...to show up - - and stir up the love of the Lord - so that we can accomplish the good works of God.
- And while it's the tendency of many believers to become distracted by their worldly endeavors...
- ...Paul encouraged us to gather together - more and more - as we see the Day of the Lord on the horizon.
 - And it's my prayer that we will all share this conviction that Paul was presenting.

VI. Conclusion

● Wrap up

- Now - as we begin to wrap up this message - I encourage every Christian to realize that...
- ...every believer has been called to become a functioning member of Christ's mystical body.
- And with this as the goal - it's important for us to remember that...
 1. ...we belong to the Body of Christ - through the Connection that was established...
 - ...on the day when we were baptized into one body - by the power of the Holy Spirit.

2. ...we also belong to the Body of Christ - through the Cooperation that we demonstrate...

- ...as the members of every local church works together - in order to accomplish the great commission of Christ.

3. ...and finally - we belong to the Body of Christ - through the Conviction that leads us to realize that...

- ...we are all equally important members - here in our fellowship of faith.
- And as such - we should have the same care for one another - as we serve our Savior - side-by-side.
- In this - we will become those believers who truly belong to the mystical Body of Christ.