

**Better Together
Community**
1 Corinthians 12:20-27

Salem's Purpose, Mission, Vision:

- 1) Purpose - Love God & Love People
- 2) Mission - Impact the City & Change the World by Making Disciples and Multiplying Churches
- 3) Vision - Connect in Worship, Grow in Groups, Serve on Teams, Go...

Think about what our vision as a church body and this description of the Body of Christ have in common:

"As it is, there are many parts, yet one body. 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." On the contrary, the parts of the body that seem to be weaker are indispensable, and on those parts of the body that we think less honorable we bestow the greater honor, and our unrepresentable parts are treated with greater modesty, which our more presentable parts do not require. But God has so composed the body, giving greater honor to the part that lacked it, that there may be no division in the body, but that the members may have the same care for one another. If one member suffers, all suffer together; if one member is honored, all rejoice together. Now you are the body of Christ and individually members of it." **1 Corinthians 12:20-27**

Main Idea: We're Better Together Because God Gives Us Strength Through Community

1. We Stand Strong in Community

"As it is, there are many parts, yet one body. 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." On the contrary, the parts of the body that seem weaker are indispensable, and on those parts of the body that we think less honorable we bestow the greater honor, and our unrepresentable parts are treated with greater modesty, which our more presentable parts do not require. But God has so composed the body, giving greater honor to the part that lacked it..." **(v 20-24)**

a) Stand strong for life in Christ

"And let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works, not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day drawing near." **Hebrews 10:24-25**

b) Stand strong through our struggles

"Two are better than one, because they have a good reward for their toil. For if they fall, one will lift up his fellow. But woe to him who is alone when he falls and has not another to lift him up! Again, if two lie together, they keep warm, but how can one keep warm alone? And though a man might prevail against one who is alone, two will withstand him—a threefold cord is not quickly broken." **Ecclesiastes 4:9-13**

c) Stand strong in our spiritual disciplines

"Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly, teaching and admonishing one another in all wisdom, singing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, with thankfulness in your hearts to God." **Colossians 3:16**

"The church should be a place of heat that stirs people up. People need to be encouraged in their Christian walk. Sometimes, you may be the one who needs the encouragement, but when you are not the person, you should be the cheerleader who encourages others on." **Tony Evans**

2. We Grow Stronger in Community

"But God has so composed the body, giving greater honor to the part that lacked it, that there may be no division in the body, but that the members may have the same care for one another. If one member suffers, all suffer together; if one member is honored, all rejoice together." **(v 24b-26)**

a) Care for one another

"Bear one another's burdens, and so fulfill the law of Christ." **Galatians 6:2**

b) Support one another in our suffering

"Rejoice with those who rejoice, weep with those who weep." **Romans 12:15**

c) Celebrate together in our victories

"Behold, how good and pleasant it is when brothers dwell in unity!" **Psalms 133:1**

3. We Go in Community

"Now you are the body of Christ and individually members of it." **(v 27)**

"What good is it, my brothers, if someone says he has faith but does not have works? Can that faith save him? If a brother or sister is poorly clothed and lacking in daily food, and one of you says to them, "Go in peace, be warmed and filled," without giving them the things needed for the body, what good is that? So also faith by itself, if it does not have works, is dead." **James 2:14-17**

Conclusion: Community is a gift that points us to Jesus, and we can share it with the world.

Sources and Further Reading Opportunities

- The Bible Exposition Commentary – Warren Wiersbe (1996)
- The Bible Knowledge Commentary – Walvoord & Zuck (1983)
- The Corinthian Confusion: A Study in 1 Corinthians – Vines (2005)
- Addresses on the First Epistle to the Corinthians –H.A. Ironside (1941)
- Tony Evans Book of Illustrations – Tony Evans (2009)
- Commentaries on the Epistles of Paul the Apostle to the Corinthians - John Calvin (1849)
- The Ultimate Commentary - 1 Corinthians - Barnes, Calvin, Clarke, Henry, Spurgeon, Wesley (compiled 2016)

