



## **Message Series Guide**

### **Imperfect Church – I Corinthians**

#### **Part 20 – One Body, Many Parts**

#### **I Corinthians 12:12-31**

The human body is amazing. Each part depends on the other parts. We have all experienced how something as simple as a toothache can affect other parts of the body. While every part has an important role to play, no part is independent. All parts must work together so that the body can function well as a whole. So, it is no surprise that Paul often describes the church as Christ's body. Followers of Jesus are interrelated with every other person in the body of Christ. Though each believer may be unique, each believer is also dependent on the rest. Like interrelated body parts, church members must work together in unity and oneness of purpose to help bring about the coming of God's kingdom.

### **READ:**

**I Corinthians 12:12-31 • Colossians 1:18 • Romans 12:4-5 • Ephesians 4:4-7, 16**

- What is the significance of Paul presenting the image of the Church as a body? Who is a member of the Body of Christ? What is the role(s) of the members? Does every member have the same responsibilities?
- What do think Paul meant by saying that we were all baptized into one Body. What is the baptism of the Holy Spirit? Why do you think Paul described being a Christian as “being made to drink of one Spirit”?
- What is the implication of verses 15-17 (don't be jealous of other members or desire different gifts/responsibilities than God has given you)? What implication is there for us in the knowledge that God has placed each member just where He desires?
- Describe what the result would be if every person in the church tried to do the same thing? Why are the weaker members necessary? Why is more honor bestowed upon those who seem less honorable? How does this compare to a human body? Why has God designed the Church like this?
- According to Paul, how does our own treatment of the different parts of our own bodies teach us about God's intended purpose in composing the Body of Christ the way He has?
- Why does Paul encourage the Corinthians in verse 31 to earnestly desire the greater gifts? What are the greater gifts? How do we desire or develop other spiritual gifts other than the one(s) we've been given?

### **DISCUSS:**

- Describe a time when you felt that you were an important part of a group or team where all the parts worked together for a common goal? What was the result?
- Have you ever felt like an unneeded or unimportant part of a group or team? What did you do about it? What would Paul have told you to do? Conversely, if you are in a position of importance and feel needed, what should you do?
- What would you say to someone who comes to church, but refuses to commit to the Body of Christ? serve? Why is commitment and mutual service necessary to the Body of Christ?
- How should we care for one another in the body of Christ?

### **PRAY:**

Pray about how you can grow in using your gifts to build up the Body of Christ?

### **RESPOND:**

If you are not serving already, commit to use your spiritual gifts as a member of the Body of Christ to serve others and make a difference in this world.



**Sermon Notes**  
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The Church is not a place. It is a Body. Christ is the head and followers of Christ are the members of that Body.

The Holy Spirit baptizes us into the Body of Christ, joining us to the life of Christ and to one another.

**QUOTE:**

*The Church is the only society that exists for the benefit of those who are not its members. - William Temple*

The life of a believer was never meant to be lived alone. We are one Body; one Family and we are better together.

Every member is a minister. And every gift is valuable to God.