



Message Series Guide

Re:Connect

Part I – Reconnecting to the Body of Christ

I Corinthians 12:12-19; 22-26

One of the most common descriptions of the Church in the Bible is the “Body of Christ.” What Jesus Christ did when He was on Earth in His physical body, He wants us to continue to do today. We are the Body of Christ on Earth. Our physical bodies are a creation of remarkable beauty and intricacy. And while certain parts seem more attractive than others, all are useful. Every part of the body relies on other parts to perform properly. This is a perfect analogy for the Christ-centered Church. When believers connect to the mission of the Church using their gifts and talents in order to serve and operate together, the whole body functions properly for the glory of God. In a time where many people are reconnecting to “normal life”, there is no more important place to connect (or reconnect) than the Body of Christ.

READ:

I **Corinthians 12:12-19; 22-26 • Romans 12:4-5 • Ephesians 4:16 • Colossians 3:14-16**

- What symbol does Paul use to describe the functioning of the Church? Explain the comparison and the main points that Paul wants to convey.
- What other symbols are used in Scripture to describe the church?
- Who is a member of the Body? What is the role of the members? Is every member equal? Does every member have the same responsibilities?
- 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)?
- 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 has God designed the church like this?
- According to Paul, what does our own treatment of the different parts of our own bodies teach us about God's intended purpose in composing the body the way He has?

DISCUSS:

- Why do we need one another in the Body of Christ? What unifies all Christians?
- What happens to the Body of Christ when just one person chooses not to do their part?
- According to Paul's instruction, how should Christians care for one another? What is your experience of receiving and giving such care?
- Why is unity in the Church so important? What are some personal practices or group disciplines that would serve to preserve unity in the Church?
- Each person is given at least one spiritual gift by the Holy Spirit. Is that gift (or those gifts) for life or do they come and go over the course of a person's Christian life? What gift(s) do you think God has given you, and how could you potentially use your gift(s) for the building up of the Church?

PRAY:

Pray that God would show you how you can best contribute to the unity of the Body of Christ.

RESPOND:

If you do not know your spiritual gift(s), make a commitment this week to discover your gift(s) through a spiritual gift inventory. Then commit to use your gift(s) to serve in the Body of Christ.