

A Beautiful Mess: Week 11

August 4, 2019

Scriptures: 1 Corinthians 12

Bottom Line: We are the physical body of Christ. We need diversity and each other to do what the Spirit calls us to do.

1 Corinthians 12

Verses 1-3: The "Jesus is Lord" Litmus test (test the spirits)

Verses 4-11: Diverse spiritual gifts shouldn't divide us, they should unite us.

Verses 12-21: Paul compares the Church to a Body (the Body of Christ). This was a very common metaphor for human societies.

Verses 22-27: Unlike the "bodies" around us, the Church is different in that the "stronger, more honourable" parts actually serve and care for the "weaker, less honourable" parts.

Take-Aways

Unity over Division

- How are we divided? By age? Gender? Race? Worldview?

No Need to Be Jealous

- God made you to contribute to the Body like no one else can, don't try to be like someone else, be your unique self.

We Are the Physical Body of Christ

- God likes to act in the world through people, and the Church, empowered by the Spirit of Christ, is the community that physically acts for Jesus.

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DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Appetizer

1. Review Sunday's message. What stood out to you? What challenged you? Are there any lingering questions?
2. Have you ever had an argument with someone about something that should have brought you together?

Entree

1. What kind of divisions do you see in our society or our culture? Do you see those same divisions in the Church?
2. How do you view spiritual gifts? Are there some that you are suspicious of, or place above or below others?
3. What is the biggest way that you think the Church should be different than the "bodies" around it right now?
4. What do you think about the statement that you are the physical body of Christ, and you are acting for Him on earth?
5. How diverse is your group, or the people you connect to in the Church? Are you pursuing diversity?

Dessert

Break into groups of 3-5 and discuss the following questions together.

1. Help each other figure out how you each uniquely contribute to the Body of Christ.

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