



If the Church Really is the Body of Christ, How Healthy is His Body Here?

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THE LEADERSHIP
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EQUIPPING ACADEMICS AND LEADERS

Academics in the Alps Conference, August 2023





Academics in Athens January 2024

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Virtue, Character,
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INTRODUCTION

Today we will consider 1 Corinthians 12:12-27. We will discover three important principles about the Body of Christ and within each principle, we will learn three truths about that principle.

By the end of our time together, we will be able to:

1. Explain what it means to be a part of the Body of Christ.
2. Embrace our need to play a role in this church and consider what that role should be.
3. Decide on one thing we will do to reach out with care and concern to other members of the Body of Christ.



Just as a body, though one, has many parts, but all its many parts form one body, so it is with Christ. 13 For we were all baptized by one Spirit so as to form one body--whether Jews or Gentiles, slave or free--and we were all given the one Spirit to drink. 14 Even so the body is not made up of one part but of many.

1 Corinthians 12:12-14 (NIV)

Principle 1:
The Unity of the Body:
We are all part of the
Body of Christ

1 Corinthians 12:12-14



We are all part of the one Body of Christ

There is only one way to become part of the Body of Christ

- Not by attending church
- Not by being a good person
- Not by religious ritual
- Only by being “baptized by God’s Spirit.”

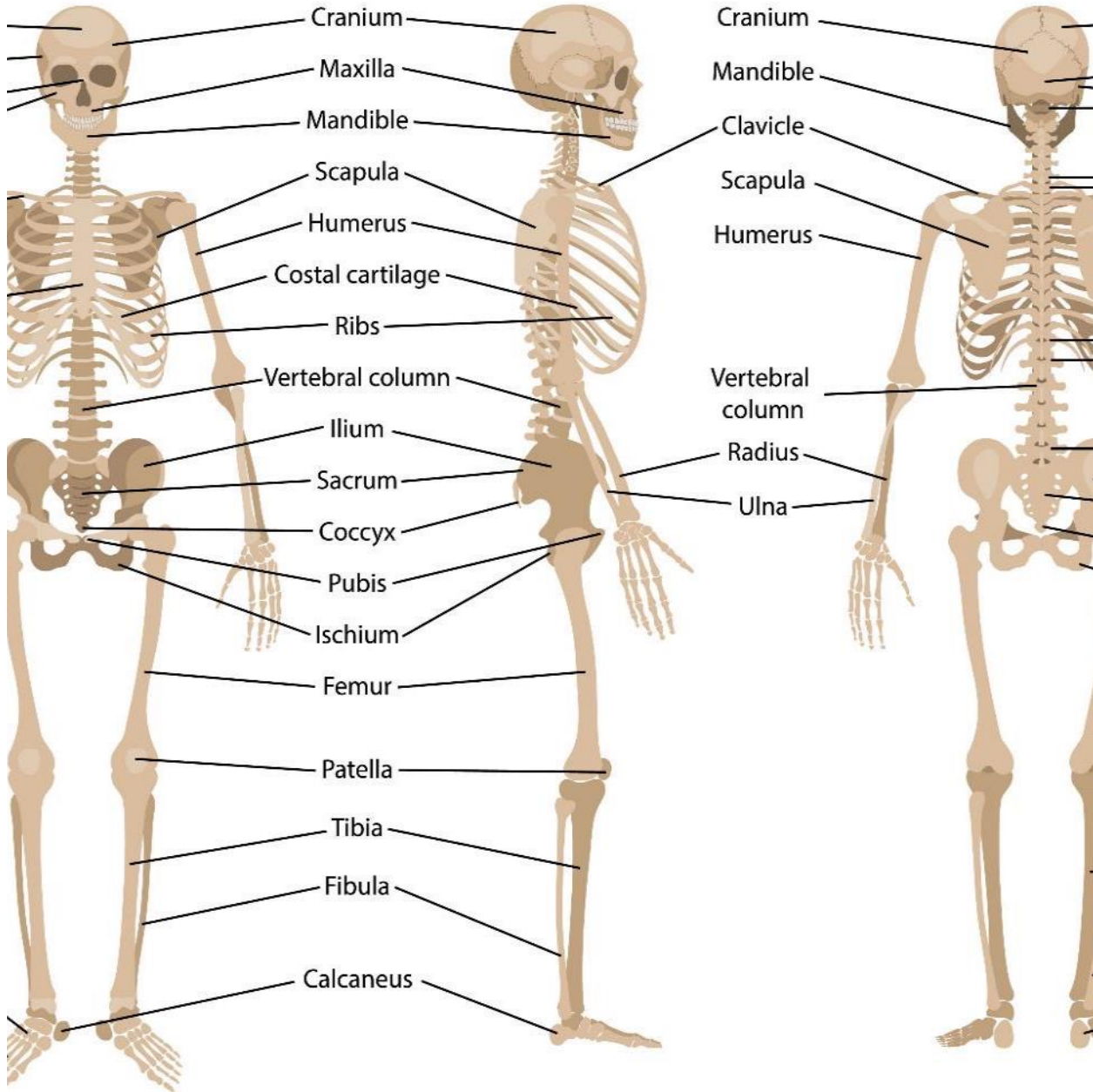
Categories and distinctions are insignificant in the Body of Christ

- No racial or ethnic divisions
- No economic or political categories
- No divisions of any kind

The Body of Christ has many parts—each one of us

Just as our physical body is made up of many parts all in one body, so each one of us comprise a different part of the one Body of Christ

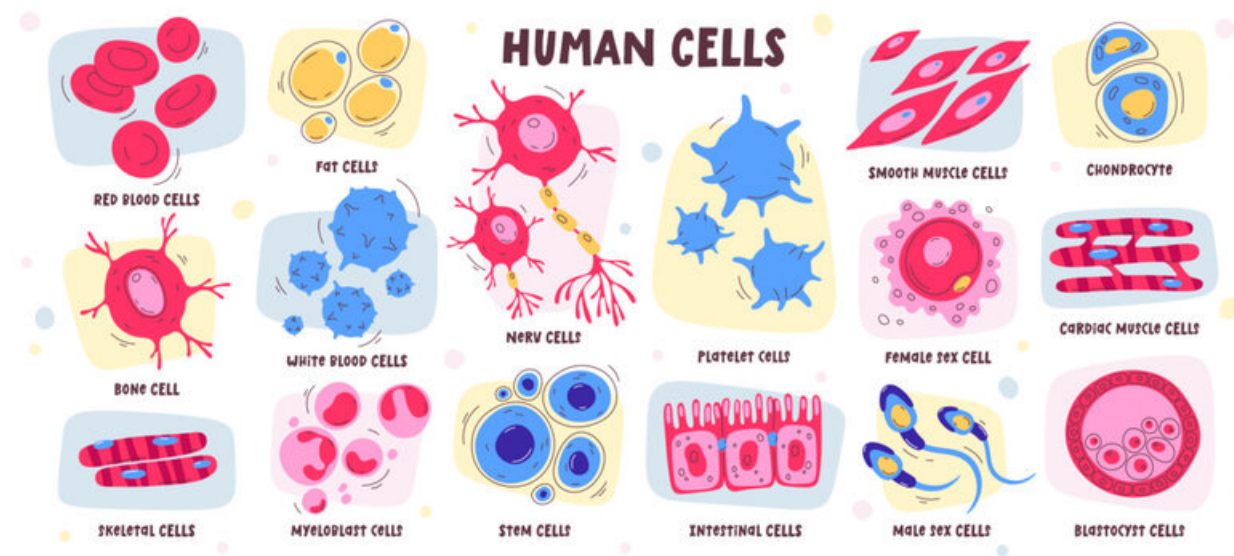
The human skeletal system



206 Bones



Adults have 200 different types of cells, with a total of 28-36 trillion cells



Principle 2:

The Diversity of the
Body of Christ:

We need one another

1 Corinthians 12:15-20





1 Corinthians 12:15-16

15 Now if the foot should say, "Because I am not a hand, I do not belong to the body," it would not for that reason cease to be part of the body. 16 And if the ear should say, "Because I am not an eye, I do not belong to the body," it would not for that reason cease to be part of the body.



1

Every person in the Church is important, just as each part of the human body is important.

1 Corinthians 12:15-16

No one is inferior. No one is useless. You are important for the Body of Christ to work as it should.



1 Corinthians 12:17

If the whole body were an eye, where would the sense of hearing be? If the whole body were an ear, where would the sense of smell be?”



2

Every person in the Church is needed.

1 Corinthians 12:17

Every person is important and necessary in the Body of Christ



1 Corinthians 12:18-20

18 But in fact God has placed the parts in the body, every one of them, just as he wanted them to be. 19 If they were all one part, where would the body be? 20 As it is, there are many parts, but one body.



3

God has a special role for every person as part of the Church.

1 Corinthians 12:18-20

Regardless of your occupation, you are in full-time Christian service.

Principle 3:
The Support of the
Body of Christ:
We care for one
another

1 Corinthians 12:21-27





1. We cannot exclude other believers from the Body of Christ

21 The eye cannot say to the hand, "I don't need you!" And the head cannot say to the feet, "I don't need you!"

1 Corinthians 12:21 (NIV)

We cannot exclude others from the Body of Christ, 12:21.

- Can you imagine parts of your body saying they don't need the other parts?
- How do you treat people you disagree with or don't like?



2. Believers who are weaker deserve special care

22 On the contrary, those parts of the body that seem to be weaker are indispensable, 23 and the parts that we think are less honorable we treat with special honor. And the parts that are unpresentable are treated with special modesty, 24 while our presentable parts need no special treatment. But God has put the body together, giving greater honor to the parts that lacked it,

1 Corinthians 12:22-24 (NIV)

We cannot exclude others from the Body of Christ, 12:21.

- Can you imagine parts of your body saying they don't need the other parts?
- How do you treat people you disagree with or don't like?

Believers who are weaker deserve special treatment, 12:22-24

- The parts of our body others never see are actually the most important.
- Special: Children and youth, new believers, widows, the poor, disabled, those who are mourning or depressed



3. The parts of the Body care for one another

25 “so that there should be no division in the body, but that its parts should have equal concern for each other. 26 If one part suffers, every part suffers with it; if one part is honored, every part rejoices with it. 27 Now you are the body of Christ, and each one of you is a part of it.”

1 Corinthians 12:25-27 (NIV)

We care for one another in the Body of Christ

We cannot exclude other believers from the Body of Christ, 12:21.

- Can you imagine parts of your body saying they don't need the other parts?
- How do you treat people you disagree with or don't like?

Believers who are weaker deserve special treatment, 12:22-24

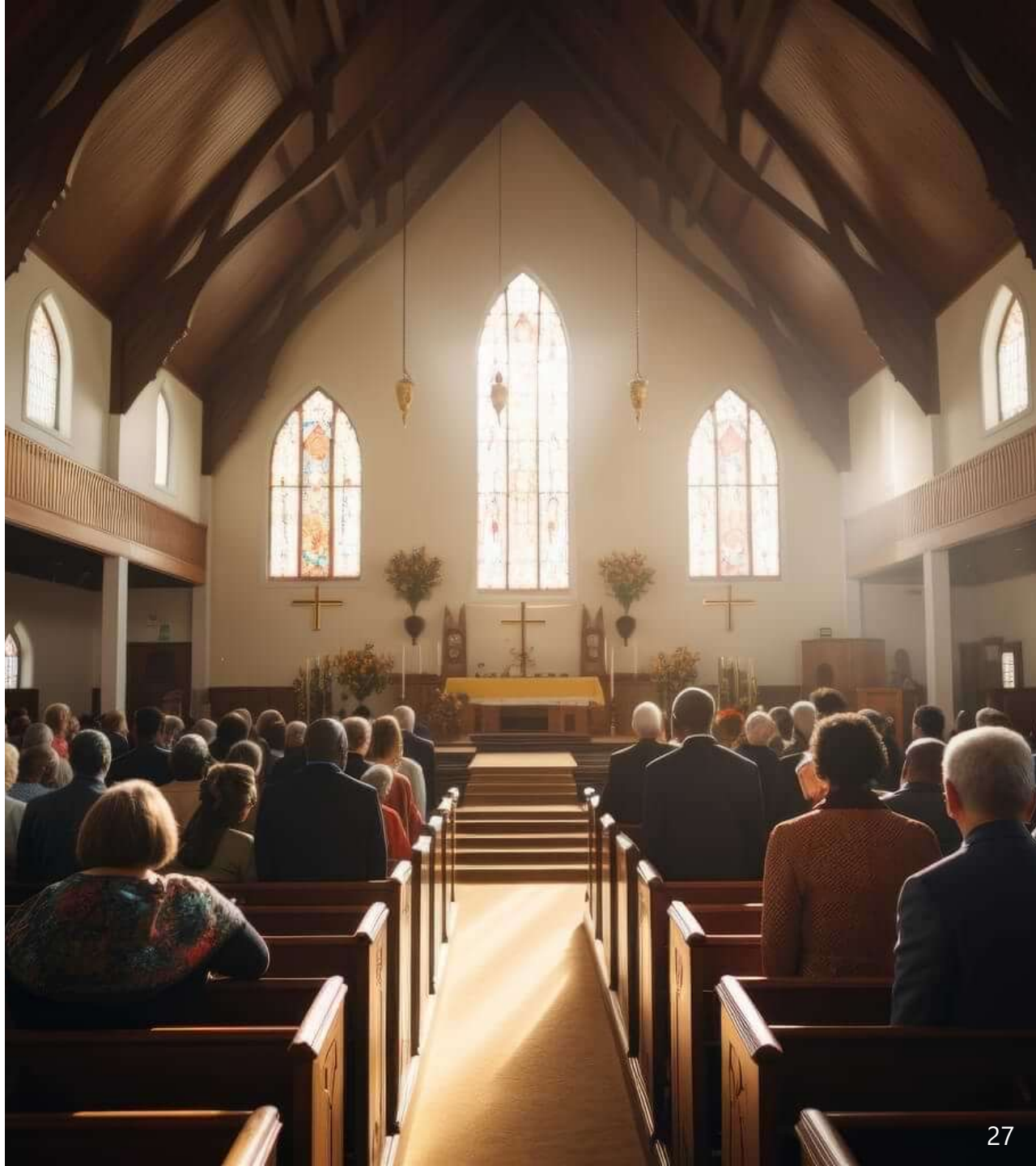
- The parts of our body others never see are actually the most important to life.
- Special: Children and youth, new believers, widows, the poor, disabled, those who are mourning or depressed

The parts of the Body care for one another, 12:25-27

- We suffer with one another.
- We rejoice with one another.

Caring for Others

1. Be faithful in church attendance.
2. Express your care for others in real ways.
3. Welcome visitors.
4. Pray globally.





**We are
Christ's hands.
Who will He touch
today through you?**

**We are one Body
in Christ.
Let's act like it.**