

Digging Deeper Study
We Believe... in the Church
1 Corinthians 12:12-27
Week of July 13, 2025

NIV ¹² 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^[a] 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.	“In essentials, unity; (1 Corinthians 12:12-13) in non-essentials, liberty; (Romans 14:1) in all things, charity.” (John 13:34) Quote: Let’s not just believe in the church. Let’s be the church. Together. Read the text completely, then come back and discuss the questions. How does the analogy of the body help us understand the importance of each member in the church? Ephesians 4:16 In what ways can we celebrate the diversity of gifts within our church community while maintaining unity? 1 Corinthians 12:4-6, Romans 12:6-8, Ephesians 4:11-13
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¹⁴ Even so the body is not made up of one part but of many. 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 stop being 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 stop being part of the body. 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	How does recognizing that we are all baptized by one Spirit into one body affect our interactions with fellow believers? (You may need to define what being baptized by the Spirit means. People have many views, but in the Alliance and most evangelical denominations, "being baptized by the Spirit refers to the spiritual transformation that occurs when a person places their faith in Jesus Christ. This baptism is not a separate event from salvation but is an integral part of becoming a believer. It signifies being immersed into the life of Christ and becoming a member of His body, the Church." Ephesians 1:3, 2 Peter 1:3-4 What are some practical ways we can ensure that every member of the body feels valued and included? Ephesians 4:15, Hebrews 10:24-25, Ephesians 4:11-13 What are some reasons a person might feel like they don't belong in the body of Christ, and how can we address these feelings? James 1:19, Romans 12:15, Ephesians 2:19, Acts 2:46, Romans 8:1, 1 Peter 4:10
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be? 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.

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!"

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.

In what ways can we encourage members who feel less visible or significant to recognize their value in the body of Christ? Some ways to deal with this issue includes restoring dignity, affirming worth, and reflecting the grace of Christ in tangible ways. Some encouraging Biblical texts include Ephesians 2:10, Luke 15:20, Galatians 6:2, 1 Thessalonians 5:11

What are some ways we might unintentionally communicate to others that they are not needed, and how can we change this mindset? Proverbs 27:23, Colossians 4:5-6, Proverbs 15:22

What would some examples of weaker members in the church be? 1 Thessalonians 5:14, James 1:27

But God has put the body together, giving greater honor to the parts that lacked it, 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.

How does Paul's emphasis on giving greater honor to the "weaker" parts challenge our understanding of value and importance within the church? Matthew 20:16, Romans 12:3-6, Luke 14:11

How does understanding that we are all part of one body, and that if one part suffers, every part suffers with it, impact our approach to community and support within the church? Galatians 6:2, Again Romans 12:15, Hebrews 13:3, Philippians 2:4