



# EKKLESIA

*Swartz FBC Leader Discussion Guide*



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**SCRIPTURE:** *1 Corinthians 12:12-27*

**SERIES:** Ekklesia

**TITLE:** *The Body*

**BIG IDEA:** The ekklesia (church), although made up of many parts, is one in Christ as His body.

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## **SUMMARY**

The church is the body of Christ and like any body, it means to live in unity, health, and comprises many parts. Paul shows that there is diversity in the body of Christ as well as a variety of experiences and responsibilities. With these various experiences and responsibilities there is a clear call to unity and common health. Physical bodies only function well when each part is healthy and supported by the other parts. Such is the church, the body of Christ. His ekklesia is to be unified and mutually supportive among the various parts.

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## **TEXT**

### **1 Corinthians 12:12-27**

<sup>12</sup>For just as the body is one and has many members, and all the members of the body, though many, are one body, so it is with Christ. <sup>13</sup>For in one Spirit we were all baptized into one body—Jews or Greeks, slaves or free—and all were made to drink of one Spirit.

<sup>14</sup>For the body does not consist of one member but of many. <sup>15</sup>If the foot should say, “Because I am not a hand, I do not belong to the body,” that would not make it any less a part of the body. <sup>16</sup>And if the ear should say, “Because I am not an eye, I do not belong to the body,” that would not make it any less a part of the body. <sup>17</sup>If the whole body were an eye, where would be the sense of hearing? If the whole body were an ear, where would be the sense of smell? <sup>18</sup>But as it is, God arranged the members in the body, each one of them, as he chose. <sup>19</sup>If all were a single member, where would the body be? <sup>20</sup>As it is, there are many parts, yet one body.

<sup>21</sup>The eye cannot say to the hand, “I have no need of you,” nor again the head to the feet, “I have no need of you.” <sup>22</sup>On the contrary, the parts of the body that seem to be weaker are indispensable, <sup>23</sup>and on those parts of the body that we think less honorable we bestow the greater honor, and our unpresentable parts are treated with greater modesty, <sup>24</sup>which our more presentable parts do not require. But God has so composed the body, giving greater honor to the part that lacked it, <sup>25</sup>that there may be no division in the body, but that the members may have the same care for one another. <sup>26</sup>If one member suffers, all suffer together; if one member is honored, all rejoice together.

<sup>27</sup>Now you are the body of Christ and individually members of it.<sup>1</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> [The Holy Bible: English Standard Version](#) (Wheaton, IL: Crossway Bibles, 2025), 1 Co 12:12–27.

## 1. THE BODY IS DIVERSE

- How have you seen diversity of giftings, background, & experience strengthen the church?
- Why do you think it can be difficult for people to make room at the table for people different than themselves?
- How does the Gospel – not preference or personality - create unity?
- What are some giftings you see in others that God is using for the health and advancement of the church?

*Application Question: Are you making room at the table for people who aren't like you?*

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## Point 1 Notes

## 2. EVERY PART IN THE BODY IS IMPORTANT

- Paul mentions parts of the body feeling insignificant. What can cause people to feel insignificant?
- What unnoticed or monotonous ministries of the church do you think are actually helping to sustain the vibrancy of the church?
- How does the sovereignty of God (v.18) speak to the distribution of certain giftings and abilities in the body?
- What do you feel is your God-given responsibility in the body?

*Application Question: Are you living in your God-given, Gospel responsibility?*

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## Point 2 Notes

### **3. THE PARTS NEED EACH OTHER.**

- Why is it hard to let others minister to and serve us?
- What does it look like to practically suffer and rejoice with one another?
- Why is unity so important to the body?
- What things hinder unity?
  - o How can we guard against these things?
- What promotes unity?
  - o How can we work towards these things?

*Application Question: Who are you suffering with? Who are you rejoicing with?*

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### **Point 3 Notes**