

## Scripture this week:

### 1 Corinthians 12:12-31

<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,

## Scripture this week:

### 1 Corinthians 12:12-31 cont.

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>28</sup> And God has appointed in the church first apostles, second prophets, third teachers, then miracles, then gifts of healing, helping, administrating, and various kinds of tongues. <sup>29</sup> Are all apostles? Are all prophets? Are all teachers? Do all work miracles? <sup>30</sup> Do all possess gifts of healing? Do all speak with tongues? Do all interpret? <sup>31</sup> But earnestly desire the higher gifts. And I will show you a still more excellent way.

## Unified Diversity

1 Corinthians 12:12-31

Todd Chapman - November 7, 2021

**The church body is like a human body.**

**The church body, like the human body, has a diversity.**

**The church body, like the human body, is to work in unity.**

**The church body is like the human body.**

## Life Group Discussion Questions

Based on 1 Corinthians 12:12-31

### Reading the Text:

1. Starting in v. 12, Paul gives a word picture for the church - for the arrangement and distribution of different gifts in the church. How would you summarize Paul's big idea in this section?
2. In vv. 14 - 20, what does Paul say about the arrangement of the diverse parts of the body?
3. In vv. 21 - 26, in addition to many coordinated parts making up the whole, what does Paul tell us about the honoring or dishonoring of seemingly weaker parts?
4. Making the metaphor very overt in v. 27, what outcomes do you imagine Paul is hoping for from this word picture?

### Knowing the Full Picture:

5. Read a similar passage from Paul in Romans 12:3-10. A different audience in Rome, and maybe slightly different emphasis, but what similarities do you see in these two exhortations regarding gifts?

### Living It Out:

6. Have you ever been tempted to be the 'Lone Ranger' in your Christian faith...no church, no small group...just you and God? What is appealing about that? What is dangerous as it relates to Paul's 'body' metaphor?
7. What does it look like for a healthy church body to care for, value, and build up members of the body with different gifts? How do we do that?
8. How can we come together as a Life Group to model the kind of body Paul describes?