



the Source

Let anyone who is thirsty come to me...

In I Corinthians 12:12-19, Paul compares the body of the church, baptized by the Spirit, to the human body, comprised of many parts but functioning as one entity. He emphasizes that each part of the body has a unique and important role to play. The eye cannot do the hearing, and the ear can't do the smelling. None of the other parts can function if the stomach doesn't perform.

Just so, the universal church, the congregation of all believers, is made up of many members, each with his or her own unique role to play. Through the unity of the Holy Spirit, each believer serves and participates in Christ's body, the universal church. That doesn't mean that a small percentage of people do God's work. No, rather each person has his or her own job...important no matter how small!

This idea to me seems vastly important to the life of the church. When only a few people do most of the work, not only do they get overworked and burned out, but others are potentially overlooked and even cheated of their opportunity to serve. For those who have trouble saying no, doing so may create an opening for a less assertive volunteer to participate. Our identity lies in Christ, not in the acclaim we receive from others for our work. Let us encourage others to join us in service and serve humbly, looking to eternity for our reward.

The other danger is assuming that we have nothing to give. On the contrary, each of us is loved by God for who we are, and we each have a special purpose in God's plan for humanity. Our job is to embrace God's love today and respond to His call on our life. We are to let our eternity begin this moment and be the difference we want to see in this world!

— Paula Holmes, First Church member

A Family Affair

Today we worship with Holy Communion. By taking Communion each person joins others in remembrance of Jesus. We come together as one church family, one body to serve and love God.

Read *1 Corinthians 12: 12-19*. In this scripture, the apostle Paul is writing to one (or more) of the early churches. Like the parts of a physical body, each member of the church is an important part of the body of Christ. The pastor or teacher is not more important than the youngest child. All members are important and work together to serve as the body of Christ: some teach, some sing, some may help with greeting or serve at church events. Have you helped in the café this year? Is someone you know volunteering for VBS? Have you heard the exciting plans for the youth mission trips or Mission Panama?

The body of Christ, the church, is to share God's love to all, not just those inside the church. Talk about how each of you could serve God, by sharing his word and his love. Together, draw a picture of a person each age...toddler, preschooler, elementary, youth, adult with or without children of their own, and grandparent. How can each age serve inside and outside our church? How will you serve?

Dear Lord, thank you for affirming each one of us as an important part of your family. Be with us as we remember and share your love with others. In Jesus name, Amen.

—Tammy Parks, Elementary Coordinator

Monday: 1 Corinthians 12:12-13

Like the parts of the body form one person, so too the members of Christ's body (the church) are baptized by one Spirit to form one union.

- How can I better honor the unity of the Spirit among believers?
- In what ways do I need to work toward unity in the church?

Tuesday: 1 Corinthians 12:14-19

Each part of the body plays a unique and important role.

- How can I be sure that I am fulfilling my role in the body of the church?
- How can I better honor the roles played by others in the church?

Wednesday: Romans 12:5-8

Different gifts are given to each of us in accordance to God's grace and are to be used accordingly with eternal significance.

- What gifts might I have that are dormant and need to be used?
- How can I better use my gifts in accordance with God's grace?

Thursday: 1 Corinthians 12:1-11

There are different kinds of gifts and service distributed by the Holy Spirit for the common good. Each person is given something to do that demonstrates God's power and glory.

- How can I show my thanks to God for the wonderful variety of gifts?
- How can I better acknowledge my faith as a gift from God?

Friday: 1 Corinthians 12:20-31

Each part of the body plays a significant role important for the total health of the individual. So, too, with the body of Christ, the church, each role is important.

- Though we each have different gifts, how does our faith in Christ unite us?
- How can we better celebrate and encourage workers for Christ?

Prayer:

Father, thank You for the gifts You have given us! Help us to honor You by doing our part joyfully, no matter how big or how small. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.