

“ALL IN”
1 Corinthians 12:12-27

INTRODUCTION

For various reasons, the Corinthian church was heading in different directions. They had a very individualistic mindset. Paul was writing to try to break the barriers and bring them together. He wrote about gifts in order to encourage individuals to be used by God in the church. The word “ekklesia” is used 114 times in the New Testament. This can refer to the church as a whole, or to local assemblies. The focus of this section of scripture, **v.12-27**, is supposed to help shape our thinking of who we are in a local body.

ONE BODY, MANY MEMBERS

The word “one” is used 7 times in the next three **verses, 12, 13, 14**. Paul focuses on what they all have in common. Believers are all born into the family of God in Christ! He wants the Corinthian church to function like a body. Some members are evangelistic and some help others to become disciples. In either case, it is important for the “assembly” to actually assemble together so they can love one another and minister to one another.

We are all parts of the body of Christ, **v. 15, 16**, even though individually we may not think we are important. Feet are important, though not normally seen. The hand, used most of the time, is much more visible. The ear is very valuable, but has to listen to complements about the eyes which get more attention by others.

Unfortunately, it’s common for people to feel as though they aren’t part of the body of Christ. They may feel disjointed or isolated. We know *that* feeling is a lie because the Word says that we *are* part of the body! In a local body there are many who don’t develop relationships with others because of these untrue perceptions. Yes, some are more prominent than others and up front, often the face of a given fellowship. We are all important, however, and the Lord desires that there would be no division or schism among us, **v. 25**.

The amazing thing is that God has placed each of us in particular locations of fellowship as it has pleased Him! **v. 17, 18**. He loves the particular mix of people in each local church! That is important to Him! What if we were all the same and had the same function? We are all different! The Corinthians placed more value on certain members, but not others, but that’s not how God sees it. There are some in the body that may seem weak in our eyes, but they will still receive honor anyway!

BODY MINISTRY

When one part of the body of Christ suffers, we all feel it, **v. 26**. We feel even the smallest hurt. Think of athletes who hurt a little toe, but can’t play because it is painful. Everyone feels it when part of the body is hurting. All of the members are needed, even when they are not seen or well known. All parts are vital! We need to care for one another. That is body ministry.

CONSIDER

What do you think about the church in general? What about your own local church? Are you really a “member” or just an occasional visitor? What is your role? Remember, all members are needed!! Commit your time to your local assembly. We need to be “All In”!

PRAY

- * For the Prophecy Conference on January 25-26.
- * That believers, members of the body of Christ, would engage and be involved in their local church bodies!
- * That each member of the body would actively use the gift granted to him or her.