

TODAY'S SCRIPTURE: 1 CORINTHIANS 12:12-26

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 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. 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 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. 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.

QUESTIONS FOR DISCUSSION & REFLECTION

1. What struck you from the sermon and why?
2. The church in Corinth was divided by social status. What sorts of things divide Christians today? And how can Jesus help us to overcome these divisions?
3. What sorts of behaviors or dynamics in the church might lead some people to feel *more* important than everyone else and other people to feel less important? What can we do to guard against these things?
4. What do you make of the idea that the mark of maturity isn’t independence, but love? How can we cultivate a greater level of inter-dependence within the family of faith?

FOR FURTHER READING

Life Together: The Classic Exploration of Christian Community by Dietrich Bonhoeffer

Fellowship of Differents: Showing the World God’s Design for Life Together by Scot McKnight

The Beautiful Community: Unity, Diversity, and the Church at its Best by Irwyn L. Ince Jr.

Sermon Notes