

The Connection

▶ June 14, 2020

Weekly Bible Verse: "You are the body of Christ. Each one of you is a part of it." 1 Corinthians (NIRV)

Better Together

Scripture: 1 Corinthians 12:5,6; 12:12-27

There was this guy named Paul who lived a long time ago. Paul was really important because he was one of the first Jesus followers to start churches and help them grow. Paul spent a lot of time writing letters with all sorts of advice for these churches. In First Corinthians, Paul wrote a letter to a church in the city of Corinth. Paul was trying to teach the people of Corinth about cooperation. Here's what Paul said to them. "There are different kinds of gifts, but the same Spirit distributes them. ⁵ There are different kinds of service, but the same Lord. ⁶ There are different kinds of working, but in all of them and in everyone it is the same God at work. . .

Unity and Diversity in the Body

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."

Paul used the illustration of a body to help the believers in Corinth begin to understand how they are to work together as the

body of Christ. His emphasis is clear. With the human body, there are many parts or members; however, all of these parts or members function as one. Paul tells the church in Corinth that it is the same with Christ. He reminds them that they were all baptized by one Spirit into one body, and the were all made to drink of one Spirit. In other words, Paul is telling them that they are one in Christ! There may be many members in the church in Corinth, but they can't see themselves as disconnected individuals. They can't see their differences as points of division. They have to see themselves as one in Christ so that they can continue the work of Christ in this world.



Together

Together we can continue to make sure that children hear the stories of the Bible and of God's love and promises! Together let's keep doing kid's ministry at the time our kids need it most.

Additional Pages:

Coloring Page - Body of Christ

Many Members of One Body - Activity Page

Word Search - 1 Corinthians 12:27

Resources:

The Body of Christ - God Made Us All Special - Douglas Talks-You Tube

Listen to the song "We Are One In the Spirit"

Read "The Zax" by Dr. Seuss



"I Wonder" questions for Today's Lesson

I wonder how I am a part of the body of Christ?

I wonder how it feels to be a foot or an eye or a kneecap?

I wonder what part of the body you would like to be?



We are called to be the Body of Christ—to be God's hands, feet, eyes, and ears – working cooperatively, with respect and concern for each other, to carry out God's work in the world.

Family Time - Cooperation

The church in Corinth is the body of Christ! Every member of the church is a part of the body of Christ, and every member of the church has a part to fulfill in the body of Christ. While there are many different parts of the body, they are all important. Every gift needs to be used if the body is to function as God designed it to work. Every gift has to appreciate the value and the purpose of every other gift if the body is to work as one. God doesn't want them working apart. God doesn't want them divided. God wants them to work together as one to be who they are: The body of Christ!

- Every member of the family is a part of the family. Try some of the activities listed below emphasizing teamwork and cooperation. Seek to involve everyone emphasizing the special abilities that they possess.
- If your children enjoy drama and dance, make large cardboard or foam letters that spell "TEAM." Help your children come up with a dance routine that spells out the word "TEAM" using coordinated footwork and arm movements.
- Cooperatively wash your house or car windows with some family members working indoors and others outdoors. Work on the same windowpane at the same time, helping each other determine if the dirt or smudges are on the inside or the outside.
- Work on preparing a meal together or make a special recipe together.
- Put a puzzle together as a family.



Paul, the Missionary

- When new people believed in Jesus, they set up new churches that met and grew. But there were still people who didn't know about Jesus. So, at God's instructions, the church began to send out men to go to new places to tell others about Jesus. Some of the first ones were Paul, Silas, Barnabas, and Mark.
- These men went on long trips (journeys) in other countries to tell others about Jesus. They were called **missionaries**.
- Paul was born in Tarsus
- Transformed by God from a persecutor of Christians to a preacher for Christ on the road to Damascus.
- Preached for Christ throughout the Roman Empire on three missionary journeys
- Wrote letters to various churches, which became part of the New Testament.

