

One Body, Many Members: Together: A Study of 1 Corinthians

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Key Truth: In the Body of Christ, God grants all members purpose, value, and belonging.

For many years, scientists made assumptions about the human appendix based on evolutionary theory without realizing that organ was actually designed to play an important role in the health of the human body. In the same way, we can also make assumptions about the Body of Christ. When we don't immediately detect a person's practical value, we may dismiss them as simply an "appendix," a vestigial add-on. But, what we learn in these verses is that the Body of Christ is efficiently designed, so that everyone has a function and purpose.

DISCUSS

Read **1 Corinthians 12:12-20** and discuss with the group a statement or concept that stood out to you or impacted you in the sermon entitled "**One Body, Many Members.**"

DIG IN

1. God's Work in the Body of Christ: (vv. 12-13, 18-20)

Assembled in the Holy Spirit: According to verse 13, into what (and whom) is a believer baptized? When is a person "baptized in the Holy Spirit" (see Acts 11:16-17)?

In what ways does our identity change with Spirit baptism? In what ways does our identity NOT change?

Who is qualified to receive this baptism? Why?

Accomplished by Jesus Christ: Describe the "two-fold" process that takes place according to verse 13. Are there examples from Scripture that explain this further?

Read Matthew 3:11: According to this verse who is the one doing the baptizing with the Holy Spirit? Why is that an important detail?

Arranged by God the Father: **Read verse 18:** Does this verse comfort or challenge you in some way? How so?

2. The Believer's Contribution to the Body of Christ: (vv. 14-17)

Describe the anatomical analogy Paul uses in verses 15-16. In what ways does this describe how Christians often view others in the Body of Christ?

In what ways are the individual parts of the Body of Christ meant to complement one another?

DO

In what ways will you put what you've learned into practice this week?