



We Are The Body Of Christ

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P_{review}

In **1 Corinthians 12:27**, the Apostle Paul says we (collectively) are the body of Christ, and each of us is a particular member. It's important that all the members of a body work together!

To illustrate this, have two teams of three people work together to eat pudding. One person on each team will be the "mouth." The other two will stand at either side of the "mouth," one being the "right hand" (can only use his/her right hand); the other, the "left hand" (can only use his/her left hand). At your signal, the teams will race: The "hands" must tie a bib or towel around the "mouth's" neck and then feed a container of pudding to the "mouth." The first team to complete the task wins.

P_{raise}

We often take for granted the body's amazing ability to coordinate the functions of its many diverse parts. Sometimes we only notice when one part stops working correctly. Let's take a moment to praise God for our health. If your body needs healing, ask Him to heal, and thank Him for His healing power.

P_{arable}

Imagine if your whole body was one big foot...or hand...or eye...or ear.

- How would this affect your ability to function? (*discuss how having only one skill or sense would severely limit you*)

It's a good thing the Church—the body of Christ—is made up of many different people with many different gifts! Sometimes we're jealous of other people's abilities, or we feel superior in our own. However, **1 Corinthians 12:18** says God has set each member in the body as it has pleased Him. Each one is important, and all the differences enable the body to do much more than if every member were the same.

P_{resent}



Although your body has thousands of different parts (thousands of hairs alone!), it is still ONE body. In the same way, Christians are all part of ONE body, and we need each other. **Read 1 Corinthians 12:21-26** from your Bible.

Every part of the body depends on all the other parts to make up a whole, healthy body. And the parts that we can't see (unless someone cuts us open) are often more important than the ones we can see. For example, you can live without arms but not without lungs; you can live without hair but not without a heart.

We should take care of each other because we're all part of one body.

- If you stub your little toe, how does your body react? (*you feel pain; your hand grabs your toe; your nerves, brain, hand, fingers, etc., all react*)
- If your foot gets a soothing massage, how does your body react? (*your feet feel wonderful and relaxed; your nerves, brain, etc., all react and feel better also*)

If you say or do unkind things to hurt another member of the body of Christ, you are actually hurting yourself. Conversely, if you say or do kind things, you are actually honoring and blessing yourself.

Practice

Paul ends this chapter in 1 Corinthians by listing different workers in the Church. **Read 1 Corinthians 12:28** from your Bible.

- What are some specific jobs people do in your church? (*some job titles: preacher, teacher, musician, praise singer, cleaner, yard worker, usher, office worker, etc.*)
- What job do you have? What job would you like to have someday? (*encourage responses*)
- What could you do right now to help someone who is doing one of the jobs we've talked about? (*encourage discussion*)

Pray

Jesus ascended into heaven with His physical body, but He left His followers here on earth as His spiritual body. We are His hands, feet, heart, eyes, ears, etc., on the earth. For His body on earth to be healthy, we need to listen and obey Him (our head) and work together. Let's pray right now that we will do this so that we can truly be the body of Christ and show the world Jesus.

Plus



All of your body parts work together to keep you alive and to make you uniquely you. This week as you wash your face, brush your teeth, comb your hair, and otherwise take care of your body, don't forget to take care of the body of Christ. Help your fellow members by praying for them, offering encouraging words, and helping them as needed.