

Life Group Guide 1 Cor 12:12–31 “Why Am I In This Church?” For the Sermon Preached on Feb 5 and For Use in Life Groups through Feb 12

Icebreaker Questions

What is your most embarrassing (or funny) bodily injury? What made it so embarrassing? (Note: if your story is embarrassing or funny because of the location of your injury, please be delicate in your telling of the story!)

Read the Biblical Text: 1 Cor 12:12–31

Pastor Richard’s Sermon Outline

- I. Committed Christians Produce a Unified Church (vv. 12-13)
 - a. All Christians are united in one body (v. 12).
 - b. All Christians are united by the Spirit’s baptism (v. 13).
- II. Committed Christians Produce a Productive Church (vv. 14-20)
 - a. There should be no jealousy in the body (vv. 14-17).
 - b. There should be no counterfeiting of the body (vv. 18-20).
- III. Committed Christians Produce a Beneficial Church (vv. 21-31)
 - a. God sets no useless members in the church (vv. 21-22).
 - b. God sets no unusable members in the church (vv. 23-24).
 - c. God sets no unloved members in the church (vv. 25-26).
 - d. God sets no unnecessary members in the church (vv. 27-31)

Observations of the Biblical Text

1. In verse 12 Paul begins an extended metaphor about the Church. To what does he compare the church?

2. According to verse 13, how did all believers in Jesus become a part of that Church, Christ’s body?

3. Paul makes his point in verses 14-16 by having imaginary body parts talk to one another. What does the foot say? What does the ear say?

4. In verses 17-18 Paul asks what ridiculous questions? Who designed the Church to be this way according to verse 19? What does Paul conclude about both the human body and the church in verse 20?

5. Now it is the eye’s turn to talk in verse 21. Then the head also speaks. What do they say? According to verses 22-24 are the eyes and the head correct in what they say? Why or why not?

6. What does God want for his Church according to verse 25-26?

7. What are the people, positions, and gifts that God has gifted to the church according to verses 27-28?

8. What does Paul conclude about God’s gifts in verses 29-31?

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Interpretation of the Biblical Text

1. This is not the first time that Paul has written to the Corinthians about unity. Take a minute to review 1 Corinthians 3. What does Paul say about unity in that chapter?

2. In 1 Corinthians 12 Paul compares the Church to a body. What is the role of God, the Holy Spirit, in forming this body (e.g. vs. 13, 18, and 28)?

3. As Paul talks about the unity of the Church, why is it so important that he names Jews, Greeks, slaves, and free persons in verse 13?

4. In this passage, Paul is trying to combat three really bad theological views about the church held by the Corinthians. What really bad theology is he’s trying to combat in vs. 14-20? What bad theology is he trying to combat in vs. 21-26? What bad theology is he trying to combat in vs. 27-31? How does Paul answer each?

Application of the Biblical Text

1. This week memorize Acts 12:26 “If one member suffers, all suffer together; if one member is honored, all rejoice together.”

2. Keep up with our annual Bible reading plan this week. If you have gotten behind, pick up where we are right now. You can always go back and read what you’ve missed as you have time.

3. Given what Paul says about unity in 1 Corinthians 3, how much unity would you say you have with the other believers at Crossroads? How much “co-laboring” are you doing? How much work on the mission of God (the Great Commission) are you currently doing?

4. If a new Christian were to read this passage and then asked you, “But isn’t the pastor really the most important person in our church?” how would you answer him or her from 1 Corinthians 12?

5. What practical steps can we take on a weekly basis to protect and increase the unity at Crossroads, to live out the words of 1 Corinthians 12:26? What are the greatest dangers to our unity?