

One Body with Many Members

1 Corinthians 12:12-26

Introduction:

This is merely a discussion guide for you and your Life Group. Today's conversation comes as a result of us celebrating the impact that Legacy Church is having (with God's grace and help) through our missional efforts locally and abroad. God is doing great things, and our discussion today is meant to help us understand our role, both as a corporate body and as individuals. For the group discussion, please read 1 Corinthians 12:12-26. The Moody Bible Commentary content for this passage is found on page 1794. - JF

Questions:

Take a moment to reflect on a memory where you were a vital part of a team. This could be for sports, at work, during a charity event, or any moment where you were one member of many people. With this memory, what was good and simple about being a part of a team? What role did you play? How did you know that you were supposed to be playing the role that you did? What was difficult about being a member of that team? What did you learn about teamwork from this experience? Were there certain roles more important than others in your experience? If so, how did you come to that conclusion?

As a group, read 1 Corinthians 12:12-26. You might consider taking turns reading a few verses or having multiple people read different translations. What is the context of this letter to the Corinthians (*Leaders, consult The Moody Bible commentary for help with understanding context*)? Why is it important for Paul to write to the Corinthians about the many members that make up one body?

Who is the body that Paul is writing about? Who are the members? Are all members equal? Why or why not? What is the significance of verse 13 stating that Jews, Greeks, slaves, and free people are all baptized into one body? How might that have been revolutionary in the first century AD? Why is this a necessary understanding of the Body of Christ?

What statement is Paul making when he talks about the roles of the foot, hand, ear, eye, and nose? Paul does not assign actual responsibilities to each member in his analogy, only the importance of being a part of the body. With this in mind, and being careful to not take the analogy too far (or inadvertently become derogatory), what roles and responsibilities would you make of each member of the body? For discussion and encouragement's sake, who are some of the feet of Legacy Church and why? Who are some of the hands, eyes, and ears? Why is it important to acknowledge the roles, functions, and abilities of each member of the body?

After hearing from several missions partners this past Sunday, Pastor Patrick gave a short homily regarding our 1 Corinthians 12 passage. What did Pastor Patrick say that stood out to you? What else would you like to discuss as a result of Pastor Patrick's homily or the group's reading of this passage?

Of the multiple speakers and updates that we heard on Sunday, what stood out to you the most and why? Of the opportunities talked about, are there any that you are considering serving with? Where might your unique gifts, wiring, and temperament be beneficial for sharing the gospel, making disciples, and glorifying God? If you are already serving in an area where you are using your gifts, can you identify and bring another person along who would be able to use their gifts in the particular area where you serve?

Conclusion:

As a group, spend time praying for each of the ministries and opportunities that were discussed on Sunday. Pray that God's glory would permeate each of those ministries and that the individual members serving would be strengthened, encouraged, and built up. Pray also for ways to encourage other members of the body, ensuring that kindness and care are exhibited to those who are seeking to glorify God and help others.