

# The Church: A Body

1 Cor 12:12-27

**For the honor of Jesus, we commit to...**

**live out oneness.**

It's God's design and reflection.

**identify individual giftedness.**

The gifts are critical to growth.

**embrace our diversity.**

You need me and I need you.

**strive to care.**

This is critical to a healthy body.

**Getting Started:** Describe an injury or pain you have had in one part of your body. How did it effect the function of your whole body?

## **Digging In and Living It Out:**

Read these verses (1 Cor 12:12-27) about God's design and Jesus' desire for oneness. How does the image of the body presented in 1 Cor 12 insist on believers living out oneness? From this image how would you rate Jesus' desire for our oneness on a scale of 1-10? As you consider your actions, speech and attitudes how would you rate your commitment to oneness on a scale of 1-10?

As you look over the list of gifts mentioned in these verses (Rom 12:3-8; 1 Cor 12:1-11; Eph 4:7-16), what gift(s) do you think you have? How has your giftedness been confirmed by friends through your ministry involvement? Ask your small group how they have seen your giftedness. Take time to thank Jesus as the head of the body for the gifts that He has given you (2 Cor 8:9). How will you affirm the gifts of someone else this week?

How do verses 14-21 argue the fact that diversity is needed? On a scale of 1-10, rate your awareness of your need for others in the body that have different gifts and perspectives? How have you (in attitude or action) embraced diversity or rejected diversity? Sit down with someone this week who has a different perspective or ministry involvement and learn as much as you can about them.

Why is caring for others in the church body so important (1 Cor 12:25)? What different groups should be the recipient of care according to this verse? This week care for someone (if at all possible outside your normal circle) by writing them a note of encouragement and appreciation.