

UNITY AND DIVERSITY: One Body, Many Parts **1 Corinthians 12:12-27**

Ice Breaker: Describe a time when you have seen people accomplish more by working together.

BACKGROUND: Jesus basically taught: if you want to draw attention to your changed life as a Christian, get along with each other. Jesus knew that the sight of His followers working together for a common cause would be a powerful testimony to His life-changing message.

THE BIG PICTURE: We are the body of Christ. We are all different in some way but are all needed to fulfill His mission *together* using our diverse gifts.

DIGGING DEEPER:

UNITY 1 Corinthians 12:12-13

- What does it mean to say that the church is the "body of Christ"?
- The Corinth church were allowing their differences to divide them. In what ways does Paul stress the unity of the believers? Why is unity so important? What unites us? How can we make every effort to maintain the unity?

DIVERSITY 1 Corinthians 12:14-20

- Why is diversity necessary? How can we build unity through diversity?
- How does Paul's image of a human body help us understand what the church is and how it functions?

INTERDEPENDENCE 1 Corinthians 12:21-26

- How do our differences make us more dependent on each other?
- How can we show we need each other? How can we make every part of the body feel valued/important? What does that look like in our church?
- What does it mean: "That there may be no division in the body but that the members may have the same care for one another"? How can we love others who are different from us?

CONCLUSION:

- What can each of us do to help the body of Christ function most effectively?
- What has God shown you about your gifts and how you should use them?
- What challenges you the most about this passage this week? What can we pray for you to help you respond to this challenge?