

FOR YOUR CONSIDERATION (1 Corinthians 12:4-7, 12-20)

1. Have you ever had a body part NOT doing what it was designed by God to do?

Have you experienced a time where you, in your mind were wanting to move, or do one thing, but your body just didn't do it?

Or have you been a part of a team where each player has a role to carry out, but one team member wasn't carrying their load?

How did these situations play out, and did you learn anything from it?

As it applies to our context - how does this analogy from of the physical body relate to us as One Body in Jesus Christ?

Why is it so important for us to understand this as it pertains to our Christian witness in the community?

2. Read verses 4-7.

How do we see all three persons of the Trinity actively involved in our individual calling as the One Body?

Based upon these verses, what specifically does each person (Holy Spirit, Son, and Father) do in this?

Verse seven clarifies why we've received gifts from the Holy Spirit - what is it?

What does it look like for us to truly pursue "the common good" in the power of the Holy Spirit?

What does it look like for you individually?

3. Early on in the message, I made the following statement:

*If you neglect to serve others in the Church:*

1. *You fail to step into that which God is calling you!*

2. *You deprive others of the blessing of your service!*

3. *You miss out one of the greatest joys in life!*

As you look at this text, where do you see these three truths to be evident?

4. How do verses 12-27 lead us to view and value ourselves AND one another in Christ rightly.

How does it prevent arrogance and elevating ourselves above others?

How does it prevent self-deprecation and under-valuing ourselves?

How is the gospel the ultimate "level playing field" for us all?

How does verse 20 specifically help us value one another rightly?

Who is the one who's arranged the members of the Body of Christ?

5. Take a closer look at verses 24-27.

What does this say about God's desire for us in our attitudes toward one another?

How can we move from a spirit of hyper-criticism to a spirit of grace and love?

Why is division within the Body of Christ so damaging?

How can we actively apply verse 26 in our lives?

How is the Lord moving in your heart specifically to get involved as a part of His Body?

6. Below are the "So What?" statements from the end of the sermon.

Do any of these particularly encourage, convict, challenge, you, and if so, how?

1. You are chosen & empowered by God as one of His own!
2. As a member of His Body, you must obey the Head (Jesus)!
3. The Holy Spirit gifts each member to serve uniquely!
4. We're different individually, but collectively are ONE Body!
5. You are needed; I am needed; We Need Each Other!