

The Body is Not Made Up of One Part But of Many
1 Corinthians 12:12-14

Russell Cook
West End Church of Christ
Knoxville, TN

1. How do you feel about your body? Most of us would rather not think about that.
 - a. So it's kind of strange that Paul would say in **1 Corinthians 12:27** **"Now you are the body of Christ, and each one of you is a part of it."**
2. Corinth was a great place for a church simply because there were so many sinners in Corinth.
 - a. The problem with the church at Corinth was that it was not living up to its potential. Their basic problem was that they were constantly being distracted by troublesome issues.
3. Let's look at four basic principles that emerge from Paul's metaphor of the body.
 - I. Diversity and Unity Function Together. 1 Corinthians 12:12-14, "The body is a unit, though it is made up of many parts; and though all its parts are many, they form one body."**
 - A. Diversity and unity are not mutually exclusive.
 - B. We don't have to give up our diversity.
 - II. We Are Dependent On Each Other. 1 Corinthians 12:15-19, "If the foot should say, 'Because I am not a hand, I do not belong to the body,' it would not for that reason cease to be part of the body."**
 - A. The fact is that you are essential as you are.
 1. **"He is before all things, and in him all things hold together. And he is the head of the body, the church; he is the beginning and the firstborn from among the dead, so that in everything he might have the supremacy." Colossians 1:17-18**
 2. **1 Corinthians 12:15-19**
 - B. We all rely on each other in the body.
 - III. Interdependence is the Model For A Healthy Church. 1 Corinthians 12:20-26, "As it is, there are many parts, but one body."**
 - A. What affects one member of the body of Christ is felt by all.
 - B. Two primary concepts are being stressed here.
 - IV. There is no Such Thing as Elitism in the Body of Christ. 1 Corinthians 12:27-31, "Now you are the body of Christ, and each one of you is a part of it."**
 - A. When something happens to one member, all of the other members respond.
 - B. A major disease that plagues the church is spiritual leprosy.
 1. **"Let us therefore make every effort to do what leads to peace and to mutual edification." Romans 14:19**