

Weekly Devotionals: 1 Corinthians 12:12-31 | February 5, 2023

INTRODUCTION

For this week’s devotionals, we’re engaging God and the Scriptures with our head, our hearts, and our hands.

Each week you’ll have an opportunity to learn (head), to engage how the Scripture passage feels (heart), and be prompted with some action (hands).

Our hope is that this devotional will help you love God, love people, and make disciples.

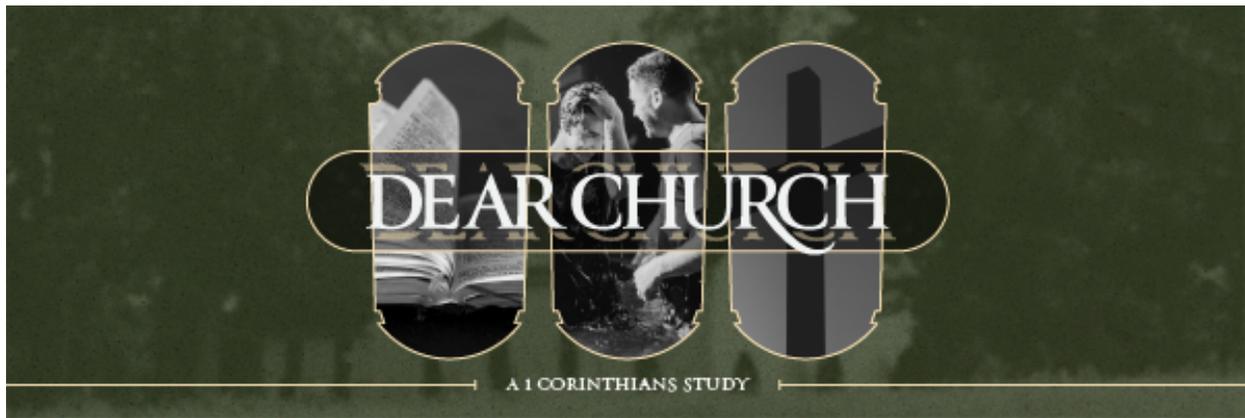
HEAD

Read 1 Corinthians 12:12-31

“Just as a body, though one, has many parts, but all its many parts form one body, so it is with Christ. For we were all baptized by one Spirit so as to form one body—whether Jews or Gentiles, slave or free—and we were all given the one Spirit to drink. Even so the body is not made up of one part but of many.

Now if the foot should say, “Because I am not a hand, I do not belong to the body,” it would not for that reason stop being part of the body. And if the ear should say, “Because I am not an eye, I do not belong to the body,” it would not for that reason stop being part of the body. If the whole body were an eye, where would the sense of hearing be? If the whole body were an ear, where would the sense of smell be? But in fact God has placed the parts in the body, every one of them, just as he wanted them to be. If they were all one part, where would the body be?

As it is, there are many parts, but one body. The eye cannot say to the hand, “I don’t need you!” And the head cannot say to the feet, “I don’t need you!” On the contrary, those parts of the body that seem to be weaker are indispensable, and the parts that we think are less honorable we treat with special honor. And the parts that are unpresentable are treated with special modesty, while our presentable parts need no special treatment. But God has put the body together, giving greater honor to the parts that lacked it, so that there should be no division in the body, but that its parts should have equal concern for each other. If one part suffers, every part suffers with it; if one part is honored, every part rejoices with it.



Now you are the body of Christ, and each one of you is a part of it. And God has placed in the church first of all apostles, second prophets, third teachers, then miracles, then gifts of healing, of helping, of guidance, and of different kinds of tongues. Are all apostles? Are all prophets? Are all teachers? Do all work miracles? Do all have gifts of healing? Do all speak in tongues? Do all interpret? Now eagerly desire the greater gifts. And yet I will show you the most excellent way.”

1. To what does Paul compare the church in verse 1 of chapter 12? Who comprises this entity according to verses 1-2?
2. According to Paul, does the body consist of one member or many (see verse 14 and following)? Are body parts able to say that other parts are unneeded (see verse 21 and following)?
3. In your own words, after reading this passage, how would you describe how people in the church are to relate to one another?
4. How does this passage relate to what Paul says earlier in 12:1-11? Write out one to two sentences describing how these two passages relate to one another.

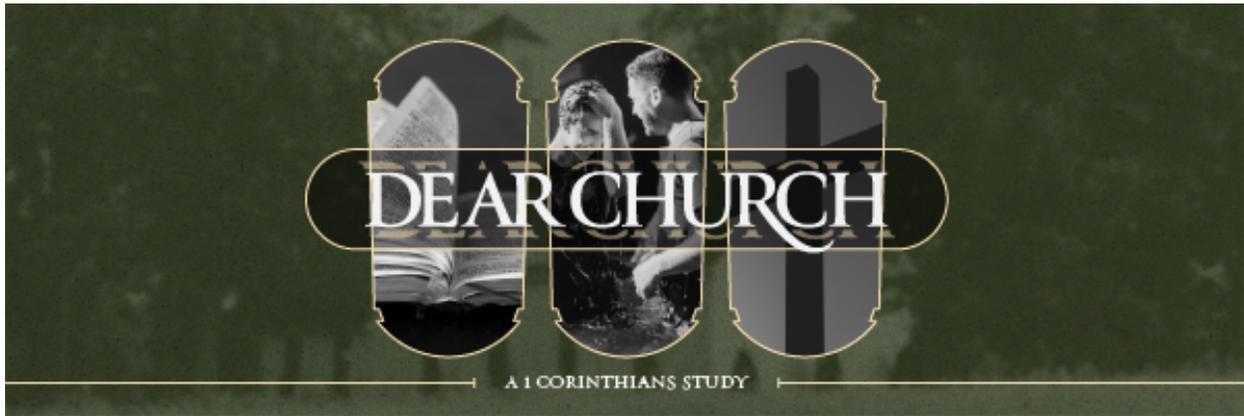
HEART

Football is a team sport – and I love football!

I played little league football when I was young and played through some of my high school years. The last year I played, I had the privilege of being on a state championship team, an experience I will never forget and one that helped solidify my love of the game.

When our kids were younger and I helped coach many of their teams, I took the head coaching role for one of their football teams. I even asked one of my best friends to help coach. When the team we received was the Minnesota Vikings (my favorite team), I knew we were destined for greatness.

Then, around practice three or four, we started teaching the kids the offense and our greatness unraveled.



Even though my friend and I had been teammates on a championship football team, neither one of us knew a thing about what a quarterback did, what a receiver did, or what a tight end did! We could help the linemen, but after that we were lost. It seems that to have a team that excels, like the one we were on in high school, it takes a lot of guys, all doing unique jobs, to come together as a team.

And that is *exactly* Paul's point regarding Christ's Church.

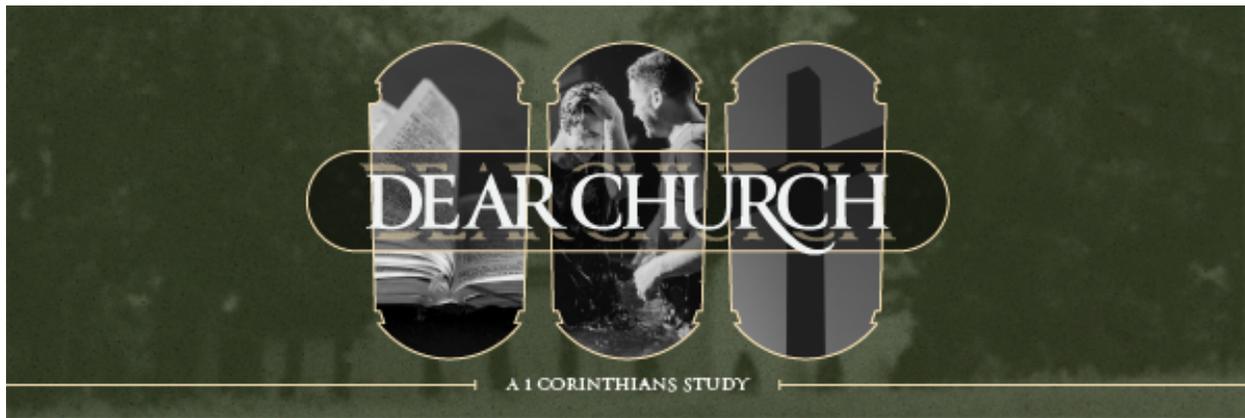
Re-read 1 Corinthians 12:12-31.

1. Sit quietly for a few moments and think about all the parts of your body. Think about how they work together. Think about how they work together even when they work independently. Think about your eyes, your ears, your hands, your feet. What does this interconnectedness tell you about how the body of Christ operates?
2. Have you ever had an injury that prevented you from using part of your body? If so, were there challenges that came from that? Explain.
3. Think about a time you needed to fix your car, or your furnace, or your computer, (or fill in your own issue here) and a friend showed up to help... how did it feel to have a friend provide the help you needed?
4. What sorts of roles do you think comprise Jesus' church?
5. Where do you think you might fit in and are needed?

HANDS

Paul's list of gifts is not an extensive list. As a matter of fact, there are a few other places in Scripture where Paul talks about gifts and this list is expanded. His idea is a pretty simple one:

1. We all have gifts that have been given to us by God.
2. We all should use our gifts to serve others and expand the Kingdom of God.
3. The church is made whole by each of us using our gifts to serve.



There are many ways to use our gifts. We can use them at The Creek. We can serve in children's ministry, student ministry, on the tech team, on the worship team. We can serve as a greeter, or lead a life group or Rooted Group, prepare communion elements... there are ways to serve where we are noticed, and some that happen so quietly that hardly nobody knows! If you want to know how to serve at The Creek, check out thecreek.org/serve.

Outside of The Creek, though, we can use our gifts to serve in one of the organizations The Creek supports or one of the short-term mission trips we take. Thomas Gregg Neighborhood School needs mentors for kids, LifeBridge has a need for helpers after school, Midwest Food Bank can always use more helpers, along with various other organizations we support. Or consider hopping on a plane to go to Cambodia, or Kenya, or India. To see all of these opportunities, check out thecreek.org/outreach.

We can use our gifts to serve others in our neighborhood, workplace, at the mall, or people we meet. You can take a sick friend flowers or a meal, clean out someone's gutters, fix their lawn mower, help someone move, donate money to a great cause, buy a friend a cup of coffee, or help someone change a tire. Our options are endless!

1. Are there areas around The Creek that seem like they would be a great fit for how you are gifted? Who from the church can you ask about serving?
2. Do you know a friend, co-worker, or neighbor who needs help in some way? List out some ways you can help them. Next, write out the first step towards helping them.
3. Are there ministries The Creek supports that you feel convicted to help with? Take a few moments to look for opportunities at thecreek.org. Write down any places that stir in your heart to follow up with in the space below.