

PENINSULA CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP

The Communion of The Saints

How we fit together

I Corinthians 12:12-27

Who is Paul writing to & what is he writing about?
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I Corinthians 1:2, To the church of God which is at **Corinth**, to those who are sanctified in Christ Jesus, **called to be saints**, with **all who in every place** call on the name of Jesus Christ our Lord, both theirs and ours

- Not to **a church**, or **the churches**... but to **THE church** of that city

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Vs. 10-13, Now I plead with you, brethren, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that you all speak the same thing, and that there be **no divisions among you**, but that you be **perfectly joined (restored) together** in the same mind and in the same judgment. For it has been declared to me concerning you, my brethren, by those of Chloe's household, that there are contentions among you. Now I say this, that each of you says, "**I am** of Paul," or "**I am** of Apollos," or "**I am** of Cephas," or "**I am** of Christ." **Is Christ divided?** (Isaiah 14:13-14)

.....
We have to ask ourselves – **Who are we** as His church in our community?

- Because this letter is written to us, too.

Ch.11:27-30 Paul writes about celebrating Communion together,

- Therefore whoever eats this bread or drinks this cup of the Lord in an unworthy manner will be **guilty of the body and blood of the Lord**. But let a man examine himself, and so let him eat of the bread and drink of the cup. For he who eats and drinks in an unworthy manner eats and drinks **judgment** to himself, **not discerning the Lord's body**. For this reason many are **weak** and **sick** among you, and many are **dead**.

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Christ's **whole body** died as one ...

- So His whole body **could live** as one (**John 17:20-23**)
- Which part of His body would we consign to death?

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Paul is now beginning to reveal the main purposes he has been preparing them for.

- **Ch.12:12-27** – God's **interdependent identity & fit** for us all
- **Ch.13:1-13** – The "**more excellent way**" – Our hearts & lives merged with His
- **Ch.14:1-40** – Priorities & clarity for the **most & least** important spiritual gifts
- **Ch.15:1-58** – The Resurrection, Christ's & ours

Ch. 12:12-14, For as the **body is one and has many members**, but all the members of that one body, being many, are one body, **so also is Christ**. For by one Spirit we were all **baptized into one body**—whether Jews or Greeks, whether slaves or free—and have all been made to drink into one Spirit. For in fact the body is not one member but many. **(12:4-11)**

Vs. 15-17, If the foot should say, “**Because I am not a hand, I am not of the body,**” is it therefore not of the body? And if the ear should say, “**Because I am not an eye, I am not of the body,**” is it therefore not of the body? If the whole body were an eye, where would be the hearing? If the whole were hearing, where would be the smelling?

*What will **individual** identity produce? **Less!***

- *Have you ever imagined Christ without a hand, a foot or an ear?*

Vs. 18-20, But now **God has set the members**, each one of them, in the body **just as He pleased**. And if they were all one member, where would the body be? But now indeed *there are* many members, yet one body.

*Who do we seek to please – **ourselves, each other... or God?***

Proverbs 27:8, Like a bird that wanders from its nest, is a man who wanders from his place.

- *The place assigned to us by God (**Aaron & Miriam**)*

Psalms 16:5-6, Lord, You have assigned me my portion and my cup; You make my lot secure. The boundary lines have fallen for me in pleasant places; surely I have a delightful inheritance.

*Do we most desire our place... or **His place for us?***

- *How often do we just choose for ourselves... like Lot?*

*How much better to know – I am **where God put me.***

Vs. 21, And the eye cannot say to the hand, “I have no need of you”; nor again the head to the feet, “I have no need of you.”

*To which part of Christ’s body are we willing to say, “**I have no need of you.**”*

Vs. 15-16 & 21, *Two **ancient lies of the enemy!***

- *I’m not as good, so I’m not needed*
- *I don’t need them. I’m fine without them.*

Vs. 22-25, No, much rather, those members of the body which seem to be weaker **are necessary**. And those members of the body which we think to be less honorable, on these we bestow greater honor; and our unpresentable parts have greater modesty, but our presentable parts have no need. But **God composed the body, having given greater honor to that part which lacks it**, that there should be no schism in the body, but that the members should have the same care for one another. **(Phil.2:1-5)**

Vs. 26, And if one member suffers, all the members suffer with it; or if one member is honored, all the members rejoice with it.

- *We experience **His life** together*
- *But first, we commit to it... Actually, **we commit to Him***

Vs. 27, Now **you are the body of Christ**, and members individually.

Why has DNA testing become so popular?

- People want to know where they belong
- To be secure in **who we are** and **where we fit**

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Vs. 28-30, And God has appointed these in the church: **first** apostles, **second** prophets, **third** teachers, **after that** miracles, then gifts of healings, helps, administrations, varieties of tongues.

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Why are teachers more important than miracles & healings?

- Because teaching is available to **everyone, all the time**
- To impart **eternal** ingredients of **who we are in Christ**
- Not just temporary physical well being

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How did people call Jesus? Healer? Miracle worker?

- **No. They called Him teacher**
- He didn't always heal them all
- He did always teach them all
- What was most important to Him?

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Are all apostles? **Are all** prophets? **Are all** teachers? **Are all** workers of miracles? **Do all** have gifts of healings? **Do all** speak with tongues? **Do all** interpret?

.....
No – thank God.

- They all empower us to **BE** the body of Christ together
- **I John 4:17**, Love has been perfected **among us in this**: that we may have boldness in the day of judgment; because **as He is, so are we in this world.**

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Vs. 31, But earnestly desire the best gifts. And yet I **show you a more excellent way.**

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NEXT WEEK: That more excellent way!