

Getting Started

- In what ways is a group of Christians gathered together in a local church like a single human body?

“The human body as an illustration of unity in Christ is a favorite of Paul’s (1 Cor 6:15, 12:14-25; Eph 4:16), and he returns to it again to demonstrate that equality is not sameness and difference is not inequality. Each human body is put together with many parts. We have vital organs, none of them visible, that keep us alive. We have various limbs that perform different, yet critical functions, such as walking or grasping. We have sensory organs that allow us to perceive the world in different ways. And when everything is working in harmony, life is good. But when one part is injured or paralyzed, the whole body suffers. What is true of the human body is true of the body of Christ. There is no such thing as an unimportant or worthless believer, even though some functions are more public than others.” (Chuck Swindoll)

- Discuss how the concepts of *unity*, *diversity* and *interdependency* are true of believers within the body of Christ.

Discussion

- Based on Romans 12:3-6, what should keep us from feeling superior or inferior to other Christians?
- God has given each of His people special skills to be used for the good of other Christians. Without falling into pride or self-deprecation, what are some of the skills or gifts God has given you?
- What kind of needs are the spiritual gifts that Paul names in 12:6-8 designed to meet?
- As you read Ephesians 4:11-16, summarize how a healthy church should function (Pastors/Elders/Members)
- In what ways are you currently using your gifts to build up the church? Share how you have grown in your faith through serving in these ways. Where can you begin serving within the church and/or in the community

Prayer

Ask God to show you your gifts and how to put them to use. Ask God to show you ways to offer them as a “living sacrifice” for His glory and for the strengthening of His people.