

# **Every Part Does Its Share**

***1 Corinthians 12:12-14***

# **Becoming a Member of the Body**

# Becoming A Member of the Body

- When a sinner repents and is baptized, the Lord adds that person to the church, the body of Christ. ***Acts 2:36-37, 41, 47***
  - Baptized into Christ. ***Gal 3:26-28; Rom 6:3-4***
  - “...no condemnation to those who are in Christ Jesus” ***Rom 8:1***

# Becoming A Member of the Body

- A Christian is a part of, a member of, of the body of Christ.
  - This one body is made up of many members.  
***1 Cor 12:12-14***
  - Paul wrote, *“There is one body and one Spirit...”*  
***Eph 4:4-6***
  - Paul also wrote, *“...so we, being many, are one body in Christ, and individually members of one another.”* ***Rom 12:4-5***

# Becoming A Member of the Body

- When a person enters the body of Christ, he joins himself with a local body of believers who work and serve the Lord together. **ex. Acts 9:26-30**
  - *“And when Saul had come to Jerusalem, he tried to join the disciples; but they were all afraid of him, ... So he was with them at Jerusalem, coming in and going out.” Acts 9:26-28*

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# **Every Part Does Its Share**

- When a Christian joins themselves to a local church, he begins to work with the local church by doing his part.

# Every Part Does Its Share

- There are roles within the local church.
  - Some roles are assigned in scriptures.
    - E.g., elders, deacons, evangelists, teachers

# Every Part Does Its Share

- There are roles within the local church.
  - Some roles were seen in a gift given directly by the Holy Spirit. **1 Cor 12:4-11**
    - These gifts were given for the “common good” (NASB, ESV) of the brethren.

# Every Part Does Its Share

- There are roles within the local church.
  - Some roles are seen in natural “gifts” or abilities given by God. **Rom 12:3-8**
    - These gifts were to be used in teaching and ministering to fellow Christ.
    - These gifts helped the workings of the local church.
    - *“...from whom the whole body, joined and knit together by what every joint supplies, according to the effective working by which every part does its share, causes growth of the body for the edifying of itself in love.” Eph 4:16*

# Every Part Does Its Share

- The various roles, gifts, and abilities are there to help the church to grow. ***1 Cor 12:14-26***
  - Every member of the local church functions for the good and edification of the whole church.
    - All members should be equally respected.
    - No one member is greater than or more important than another member.

# Every Part Does Its Share

- The various roles, gifts, and abilities are there to help the church to grow. **1 Cor 12:14-26**
  - Avoid an inferiority complex that creates a disconnect with the body. **vs 15-19**
    - God has set the members, each one of them, in the body just as He pleased. **vs 18-19**
    - God has set you in the body just as He pleased. Do not view your role or your abilities as insignificant.

# Every Part Does Its Share

- The various roles, gifts, and abilities are there to help the church to grow. **1 Cor 12:14-26**
  - Avoid a superiority complex. **vs 20-26**
    - The eye and the head cannot say to the hand and feet, “I have no need for you.”
    - All members of the body are necessary, even those who seem “weaker.”
    - It is upon these members that we bestow greater honor.
    - Those who are quiet about their work need to be recognized and honored.

# Every Part Does Its Share

- The various roles, gifts, and abilities are there to help the church to grow. **1 Cor 12:14-26**
  - Although there are many members in one body, there should be no divisions, or schism.
    - Paul wrote, *“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.”* **vs 24-25**
    - All members should have the same care and honor for one another. **vs 26**

# **Application to the Local Church**

# Application to the Local Church

- **First:** We are to have the same love, care, and honor for every member of the local church, regardless of their role in the church and their abilities or gifts.

# Application to the Local Church

- **Second:** Fulfill your role in the church. Make use of the abilities God has given you. ***Eph 4:16***
  - Elders or overseers of the local church. ***Eph 4:11; 1 Pet 5:1-2***
  - Deacons. ***1 Tim 3:8; Phil 1:1***
  - Evangelists, preachers. ***cf. Eph 4:11***
  - Teachers, teaching. ***Eph 4:11; Rom 12:7***
    - Learn how to teach.
    - Helpers in Bible classes.

# Application to the Local Church

- **Second:** Fulfill your role in the church. Make use of the abilities God has given you. ***Eph 4:16***
  - Ministry or ministering to (serving) others. ***Eph 4:12; Rom 12:7; 1 Pet 4:10***
    - Exhorting others. ***Rom 12:8***
      - *Giving. Rom 12:8*
      - *Leading. Rom 12:8*
      - *Showing mercy. Rom 12:8*
        - *Personal benevolence.*
        - *Personal encouragement.*
        - *Willingness to forgive.*

# Application to the Local Church

- **Second:** Fulfill your role in the church. Make use of the abilities God has given you. ***Eph 4:16***
  - Ministry or ministering to (serving) others. ***Eph 4:12; Rom 12:7; 1 Pet 4:10***
    - Constant love. ***1 Pet 4:8***
    - Be hospitable without complaining. ***1 Pet 4:9***
      - *Helping others when they are sick.*
      - *Caring for brethren when they are in need.*
    - Speak as oracles of God. ***1 Pet 4:11***
    - Serve or minister with the ability which God supplies. ***1 Pet 4:11***

# Application to the Local Church

- **Third:** Participate in the worship services.
  - All members sing together.
  - All members partake of the Lord's supper.
  - All members pray together.
  - All members partake of the word of God.
  - All members contribute to the work as they are able.

# Application to the Local Church

- **Third:** Participate in the worship services.
  - Prepare for worship services and Bible classes.
    - Be on time.
    - Come prepared to study and to worship.

# Application to the Local Church

- **Third:** Participate in the worship services.
  - Create a desire within yourself to attend all the worship services and Bible classes.
    - Let this desire create an expectation of coming together.
    - Do not look for excuses or reasons to miss services.

# Application to the Local Church

- **Fourth:** Help to fulfill some of the expedient roles or needs within the functioning of the church:
  - Some people sign up to prepare the communion for the Lord's Supper.
  - Some people greet and welcome our visitors.
  - Some people help with maintaining and cleaning the building and its grounds.
  - Some people help with organizing and arranging various supplies, Bible class materials and teaching supplies.

# Application to the Local Church

- **Fifth:** All the above roles, needs, and gifts are necessary.
  - All members should be honored and appreciated for their part in the local church.
    - Some people may have more opportunities to serve while others may have fewer opportunities,...
      - ...but they are all honored and appreciated.

# Application to the Local Church

- **Fifth:** All the above roles, needs, and gifts are necessary.
  - All members should be honored and appreciated for their part in the local church.
    - Some people may have certain gifts or abilities while others may have a different set of gifts or abilities,...
    - ...but they are all honored and appreciated.

# Application to the Local Church

- **Fifth:** All the above roles, needs, and gifts are necessary.
  - All members should be honored and appreciated for their part in the local church.
    - Some people may have roles or duties assigned to them while others offer their services voluntarily as there are needs,...
      - ...but they are all honored and appreciated.

# Application to the Local Church

- **Fifth:** All the above roles, needs, and gifts are necessary.
  - Every member is a necessary part of the local body, the local church of Christ.

# Conclusion

- If you are not a Christian, then consider becoming a child of God today.
  - As we showed in the beginning, the Lord will add you to the church, the body of Christ.
  - Then, work with the local church as a member of that local body of believers.
- If you are a Christian, then do your best to be a working member of the local church.