

Every Part Does It Share

SCRIPTURE READING: 1 Corinthians 12:12-14

I. BECOMING A MEMBER OF THE BODY OF CHRIST.

- A. 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)
 - 1. The apostle Paul referred to a person being baptized into Christ. (Galatians 3:26-28; Romans 6:3-4)
 - 2. Paul also said, *"There is therefore now no condemnation to those who are in Christ Jesus, who do not walk according to the flesh, but according to the Spirit."* (Romans 8:1)
 - 3. When we are baptized into Jesus Christ, we are to walk, not *"according to the flesh, but according to the Spirit."* We live a changed life.
- B. A Christian is a part of, a member of, of the body of Christ.
 - 1. This one body is made up of many members. (1 Corinthians 12:12-14)
 - 2. Paul wrote, *"There is one body and one Spirit..."* (Ephesians 4:4-6)
 - 3. Paul also wrote, *"...so we, being many, are one body in Christ, and individually members of one another."* (Romans 12:4-5)
- C. 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)

II. EVERY PART DOES IT SHARE.

- A. When a Christian joins himself to a local church, he begins to work with the local church by doing his part.
- B. There are several roles within the local church.
 - 1. Some roles are assigned in scriptures, e.g., elders, deacons, evangelists, teachers.

2. Some roles were seen in gifts given directly by the Holy Spirit. (1 Corinthians 12:4-11)
 - a. Paul makes the point that these gifts were given by the same Spirit of God.
 - b. He also says these gifts were given for the “common good” (NASB, ESV) of the brethren.
3. Some roles are seen in natural “gifts” or abilities given by God. (Romans 12:3-8)
 - a. The members all have gifts (abilities) given to them by God by which they aid in the functioning of the local church.
 - b. In his letter to the church in Ephesus, Paul wrote, “*...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.*” (Ephesians 4:16)
- C. The various roles, gifts, and abilities are there to help the church to grow. (1 Corinthians 12:14-26)
 1. Every member of the local church functions for the good and edification of the whole church.
 2. Avoid an inferiority complex that creates a disconnect with the body. Paul addressed this in verses 15-19.
 - a. Every member of the local church is distinct, important, and necessary to the functioning of the church.
 - b. Paul wrote, “*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?*” (vs 18-19)
 - c. God has set you in the body just as He pleased. No matter how insignificant you may view your own abilities to help the work of the

church, what the Lord has given you within the scope of the work of this church is exactly what this congregation needs.

3. Avoid a superiority complex. They may look at those they perceive to be weaker or lesser to be unnecessary for the body. Paul addressed this in verses 20-26.
 - a. In the illustration, Paul creates the image of the eye and the head displaying superiority over the hand and feet, saying “I have no need for you.”
 - b. All members of the body are necessary, even those who seem “weaker.” It is upon these members who seem “weaker” that we bestow greater honor. These members are truly indispensable.
 - c. Those members who seem to be at the forefront of the functioning of the congregation have no need for great honor or esteem. It is the members who are more quiet in their work, those who are not always “out front” who need to be recognized, acknowledged or honored.
4. Although there are many members in one body, there should be no divisions, or schism.
 - a. 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)
 - b. All members should have the same care and honor for one another. So much so that *“if one member suffers, all the members suffer with it; or if one member is honored, all the members rejoice with it.”* (vs 26)

III. THE APPLICATION TO THE LOCAL CHURCH.

- A. 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.
- B. Second: Fulfill your role in the church. Make use of the abilities God has given you. As Paul wrote, *“according to the effective working by which every part does*

its share, causes growth of the body for the edifying of itself in love.” (Ephesians 4:16)

1. Elders or overseers of the local church. (Ephesians 4:11; 1 Peter 5:1-2)
 2. Deacons. (1 Timothy 3:8; Philippians 1:1)
 3. Evangelists, preachers. (cf. Ephesians 4:11)
 4. Teachers, teaching (Ephesians 4:11; Romans 12:7)
 - a. Learn how to teach.
 - b. Helpers in Bible classes.
 5. Ministry or ministering to (serving) others. (Ephesians 4:12; Romans 12:7; 1 Peter 4:10)
 - a. Exhorting others. (Romans 12:8)
 - b. Giving. (Romans 12:8)
 - c. Leading. (Romans 12:8)
 - d. Showing mercy. (Romans 12:8)
 - 1) Personal benevolence.
 - 2) Personal encouragement.
 - 3) Willingness to forgive.
 - e. Constant love. (1 Peter 4:8)
 - f. Be hospitable without complaining. (1 Peter 4:9)
 - 1) Helping others when they are sick.
 - 2) Caring for brethren when they are in need.
 - g. Speak as oracles of God. (1 Peter 4:11)
 - h. Serve or minister with the ability which God supplies. (1 Peter 4:11)
- C. Third: Participate in the worship services.
1. All members sing together.
 2. All members partake of the Lord's supper
 3. All members pray together.
 4. All members partake of the word of God.
 5. All members contribute to the work as they are able.

6. Prepare for worship services and Bible classes.
 - a. Be on time.
 - b. Come prepared to study and to worship.
 7. Create a desire within yourself to attend all the worship services and Bible classes.
 - a. Let this desire create an expectation of coming together.
 - b. Do not look for excuses or reasons to miss services.
- D. Fourth: Help to fulfill some of the expedient roles or needs within the functioning of the local church:
1. Some people sign up to prepare the communion for the Lord's Supper.
 2. Some people greet and welcome our visitors.
 3. Some people help with maintaining and cleaning the building and its grounds.
 4. Some people help with organizing and arranging various supplies, Bible class materials and teaching supplies.
- E. Fifth: All the above roles, needs, and gifts are necessary. No one role, ability, or gift makes one person of greater honor than another.
1. All members should be honored and appreciated for their part in the local church.
 - a. Some people may have more opportunities to serve while others may have fewer opportunities, but they are all honored and appreciated.
 - b. 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.
 - c. 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.
 2. Every member is a necessary part of the local body, the local church of Christ.

CONCLUSION.

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

Every Part Does Its Share

by John M. Duvall – February 18, 2026 – File #: 2670, Local Church

Preached at the Seminole Pointe church of Christ in Edmond, Oklahoma