



[study guide]

THE COMMON GOOD: Week 3

3.3.13: I Corinthians 12:1-7

[warm up]

Have you ever significantly injured part of your body? How was the rest of your body affected by the injury? What abilities did you lack while healing from that injury? How did it feel to get back use of that part of your body (if it did indeed heal)?

What parts of our body do we tend to place a great value on, based on use and familiarity? What parts of our body are critically vital, but we don't often think about or acknowledge?

[dig in]

Review 1 Cor. 12:12-27, our main teaching passage from this last weekend. If you were to summarize these verses in a brief sentence, what comes to mind? If you were to summarize these verses in one word, which words comes to mind?

How does this imagery and analogy of the human body help us understand how to use our spiritual gifts better? How does it help us to validate and appreciate the gifts in others?

Which spiritual gifts are typically applauded and emphasized within the body and which ones can be marginalized or devalued? How can we eliminate that dynamic in the church?

Read Rom. 12:4,5 and 1 Cor. 10:16-18. Our goal is unity and interdependence as a community of faith. What happens when we get stuck in being either too independent or over-dependent as individual believers and as a local church body? We all know that there is the temptation to just "do it ourselves" in life, but why is that not always the "best" way?

Read Eph. 1:22, 23; Eph. 5:29, 30; I Col. 1:17, 18 and Col. 2:19. How does knowing that Jesus is the head of the body bring us hope, comfort, peace and also satisfaction in fulfilling our role in the body of Christ?

What does God warn us against in the body? (Rom. 12:3, 16; Gal 5:26)? How do these attitudes do great damage within the church and to our effectiveness in reaching out to those who don't know the Lord?



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What dynamics do we experience when our body is working well together? (Gal. 3:28; Eph 4:16; Col. 3:14; 1 Peter 3:8)

[living it out]

Honestly assess how independent or over-dependant you may be in the Christian community. What can you do to intentionally move to a greater level of interdependence? (be in community with those different than you – both on the local and regional level, regularly get face to face with someone of a completely different gift set so that you can compliment and “sharpen” each other, engage in serving in the body rather than just attending gatherings etc.)

If you haven't taken our recommended spiritual gift inventory yet on the CVC homepage, take it and learn more about your potential gift mix

<http://cvconline.org/index.php/site/frontpage4java/>

As you close up this time in prayer:

- (1) Thank God for His body and commit to be more faithfully obedient to Christ, the head of the body.
- (2) Give God praise for the gifts that He has imparted to His body and for their uniqueness in function. Praise God for the gifts He has given you, and those around you.
- (3) Ask God's forgiveness for any attitude of pride, conceit, division, apathy or disinterest that you have had in the body and toward others in the body.
- (4) Ask the Lord to help increase your unity, interdependence and use of gifting in our body. Ask Him to increase your appreciation and interaction with others in our body, and to experience the joy of their gifts.
- (5) Please lift up those prayers for our church as a whole as well, to truly be a body working together to grow and build God's kingdom.