

The Little Toe in the Body of Christ - 1 Corinthians 12:12-27
Notes, Family Worship, Bible Reading

Notes from the Sermon

I know from personal experience the importance of the little toe. During my college years I broke it. In the middle of the night I got up to go to the restroom. While walking down the little hall to the facility we shared with guys in another room I kicked something in the dark and felt immediate pain. Unbeknownst to me, they had set a mini-fridge in the hallway. I knew it hurt pretty bad, but didn't realize how bad until I turned on the light in the restroom to see my toe pointing sideways. It was then that I nearly passed out. I can tell you that it was not just my toe that hurt, all of me hurt. I missed several weeks of baseball, and could hardly walk around. Furthermore, my balance was thrown way off, as I often found it hard not to fall down. It was there that I began to realize exactly what Paul was communicating in our text for this week.

Paul's favorite image of the church was a body. And not just any body, he declares in multiple texts that the church is the very Body of Christ. And this is more than just a metaphor. Yes, Jesus has a human body that has been ascended. Yet, there is another very real meaning in this image. The presence of a body actually means the presence of the whole person. Have you ever had someone say, "I will be with you in spirit?" C'mon, we know what that means, it means the person is not going to show up. There in spirit, seriously, you can't be in a place unless your body is there. As Paul opens our text and mentions how a body is one body yet many members he uses a phrase that is actually striking. He says, "So it is with Christ." Now get this. Paul is saying that the church functioning as a body is actual the very presence of Jesus Christ in the world. He can say this because the Holy Spirit is the one who baptizes, fills, and empowers the church in her ministry. A local church is so much more and so much greater than any other organization. It is the embodiment of the Lord Jesus in any given culture. Think about this. Jesus took the bread, broke it during the Last Supper, and said, "This is my body." Now, through the Inspiration of the Holy Spirit He is looking at us corporately and saying, "This is my body."

And this is the very point of gifts, from Paul's perspective. Paul tells us in verses 4-6 that each of us will have different gifts, different areas of ministry and service, different passions and empowerment. This inevitably will lead to having strong opinions about what is important and necessary in the church. Furthermore, God has in His grace and for His glory chosen to save people from diverse backgrounds, ethnicities, and socio-economic classes (v. 13), yet He places them in a Body as He wills. This means that the various gifts, passions, and areas of service represented in the Body are reflections of the heart of Jesus. It is in the growing diversity of these things and expression of them for the purpose of the Kingdom that Christ is present in us and made known to the world.

So the application of this text is pretty simple, to be honest. First, you are not part of Genesis because you chose us, but because God in His sovereign will has placed you here. Second, unity is not optional. We are made up of many members, but we are one Body. Third, being uninvolved or merely a spectator of the life of the church is damaging to the work of Christ through us. A body that has 30-40% non functioning is, well, almost dead. So often in churches you find a few gifted people doing all the work, a larger group merely attending an event, and many others not showing up at all or coming here and there as their time allows. No wonder the church rarely feels like it is the embodiment of Christ's mission in the world. Fourth, every part of the Body is equally important. God has uniquely wired you, gifted you, and called you to passions and areas of ministry. These are things that only you can fulfill in His body. Yet, your pursuing these things gives the church more diversity in what it accomplishes in the name of Jesus. Finally, there is no room for pride or gift envy in the Body of Jesus. We tend to look at certain people with certain gifts and exalt them. When done by the gifted person, this is an expression of pride, and God opposes the proud

(James 4:6), so that is a problem. On the other hand, exalting people with certain gifts can also create a form of hero worship in the church that will lead to disillusionment when the person shows that they are just as much a sinner as all of us. Take a look at verses 23-24. Paul is saying that there are certain parts of the body that we cover up so nobody can see them (as you get older those parts are more and more). Yet, God gives greater honor and glory to those parts. There are so many in the church whose gifts being expressed in areas of ministry that go unseen by others. Nobody has gift envy of those people, yet, in God's eyes, He gives them greater honor.

The goal of the gifts then is that God would use the glorious individual that you are for His glory by placing you in a Body and having you serve your role. God is not so much revealed in our individual service, but by the interconnectedness and diversity of gifts that He has placed in His Body. When we all do this the presence of Christ in the world is revealed through the worship, ministry, care, and mission of the church. We are able to care in a greater way for one another, live in Spirit filled unity, weep with those who weep, and rejoice with those who rejoice.

Bible Reading for the Week

Daily Bible Readings

Sun	Mon	Tues	Weds	Thurs	Fri	Sat
1 Chronicles 27	1 Chron 28	1 Chron 29	2 Chron 1	1 Chron 2	2 Chron 3	2 Chron 3

Reading from this past week: 1 Corinthians 12:12-27

Reading in preparation for this coming Sunday: 1 Corinthians 13:1-13

Family Worship

Song - *Made to Worship*

<https://youtu.be/DiDBU1XEaAU>

Gospel Project

Story: Jesus was Questioned

Story Point: Jesus spoke with wisdom and authority.

Big Picture Question: What did Jesus do to save us?

Answer: Jesus lived a sinless life, died on the cross, and rose from the dead.

Scripture: Mark 12

New City Catechism

Question #42: How is the Word of God to be read and heard?

Answer: With diligence, preparation, and prayer; so that we may accept it with faith and practice it in our lives.

Verse: 2 Timothy 3:15-17

Scripture

1 Corinthians 12:12-27

*What part of the body best images your gifts, passions, and area of ministry?

*This whole passage is based on two basic truths, that there is one body, yet many members. Why are both ideas so important?

*What are some things our church could do to be a better representation of the Body of Christ? What are some things you or your family could do?

Prayer

*Pray that our church would be healthy as the Body of Christ in our city.

*Pray that God would bless our move to back to Blevins.