

What Is The Church?

1 Corinthians 12:12-31

Part 5 of *Solid Ground: The Basics of Faith*

February 5, 2012

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"The human body has many parts, but the many parts make up only one body. So it is with the body of Christ." – 1 Corinthians 12:12 (NLT)

1. What is the Church? The Bible says:

- The Church is like a building or a field (1 Corinthians 3)
- The Church is like a bride (Ephesians 5)
- The Church is the Body of Christ (1 Corinthians 12)

2. What does it mean to be the Body of Christ?

- Each different part is important to the whole (v. 12-17)
- God has put us together to care for one another (v. 18-25)
- In the Body, what affects one member is felt by all (v. 26-27)
- The Body is made up of all believers with a variety of gifts (v. 28-31)

3. Four things you can do to help build a healthy Church Body:

- *Promote Mental Health:* Seek the mind of Christ, the Head
- *Improve Physical Health:* Exercise your gifts and serve with joy
- *Ensure Emotional Health:* Don't beat up, build up
- *Enhance Spiritual Health:* Love

Conclusion: Do your part to help build a healthy Body.

REFLEX (Questions to respond to this week):

- Review the above scripture passages. How is the Holy Spirit speaking to you?
- What "body part" of the Body of Christ are you most like (hands, feet, eyes, ears, mouth, heart, etc.)?
- According to 1 Cor 12:12-31, what different roles can people have in the Church?
- Why do we call Jesus the head of the Church?
- If a friend were to ask you, "What is the Church?", how would you explain it?
- What steps can you personally take to help us grow as a healthy Church?

Today's Bible Reading

1 Corinthians 12:12-31 (NLT)

¹² The human body has many parts, but the many parts make up only one body. So it is with the body of Christ. ¹³ Some of us are Jews, some are Gentiles, some are slaves, and some are free. But we have all been baptized into Christ's body by one Spirit, and we have all received the same Spirit.

¹⁴ Yes, the body has many different parts, not just one part. ¹⁵ If the foot says, "I am not a part of the body because I am not a hand," that does not make it any less a part of the body. ¹⁶ And if the ear says, "I am not part of the body because I am only an ear and not an eye," would that make it any less a part of the body? ¹⁷ Suppose the whole body were an eye—then how would you hear? Or if your whole body were just one big ear, how could you smell anything?

¹⁸ But God made our bodies with many parts, and he has put each part just where he wants it. ¹⁹ What a strange thing a body would be if it had only one part! ²⁰ Yes, there are many parts, but only one body. ²¹ The eye can never say to the hand, "I don't need you." The head can't say to the feet, "I don't need you."

²² In fact, some of the parts that seem weakest and least important are really the most necessary. ²³ And the parts we regard as less honorable are those we clothe with the greatest care. So we carefully protect from the eyes of others those parts that should not be seen, ²⁴ while other parts do not require this special care. So God has put the body together in such a way that extra honor and care are given to those parts that have less dignity. ²⁵ This makes for harmony among the members, so that all the members care for each other equally. ²⁶ If one part suffers, all the parts suffer with it, and if one part is honored, all the parts are glad.

²⁷ Now all of you together are Christ's body, and each one of you is a separate and necessary part of it. ²⁸ Here is a list of some of the members that God has placed in the body of Christ: first are apostles, second are prophets, third are teachers, then those who do miracles, those who have the gift of healing, those who can help others, those who can get others to work together, those who speak in unknown languages.

²⁹ Is everyone an apostle? Of course not. Is everyone a prophet? No. Are all teachers? Does everyone have the power to do miracles? ³⁰ Does everyone have the gift of healing? Of course not. Does God give all of us the ability to speak in unknown languages? Can everyone interpret unknown languages? No! ³¹ And in any event, you should desire the most helpful gifts.

First, however, let me tell you about something else that is better than any of them!

Next Sunday, Feb. 12

Want a New Life?

1 Peter 1:17-23; Rom 3:23; 6:23; 10:9

SOLID GROUND

The Basics of Faith

