

1 Corinthians 12:12-27 Church - every member ministry

Looking back

We want to grow together, so let's just review what God has done in us from the last study:

- How did you get on? How has God changed things in your life as a result of your response to the last study?
- What have you found difficult?
- If you haven't really thought much about it at all since last time, think of some suggestions that might help us recall and apply God's word this time around.

Getting into the passage

Read 1 Cor 12:12-27 together

For each study we need to ask some basic questions. Be honest, and help one another learn:

- Was there anything in the sermon that you didn't really understand or had you confused?
- What particular things did God challenge you about to apply in your life / heart?
- Was there anything you struggled with or disagreed with?

Learning from the passage

What was it in the church in Corinth that was causing division? Divide into groups and look in 1 Cor 1:10-13; 5:1-2; 6:1-6; 7v2; 8:1-3,8-13,10:31-33; 11:20-22 and report back.

In 1 Cor 1v13 Paul asks "*Is Christ divided?*" and in our passage in v12 he says "*So it is with Christ*". How does Paul see the church? What, therefore does any division mean in regard to the witness of His church to the world?

The big picture in the passage is of the church as a body. What key things does this illustration emphasise about the church?

In reality churches are not made up of people who would naturally unite. Identify the things that can cause disunity. Which of these most often cause

problems? Which of them does this passage explicitly address?

Some of these problems are identified in **v13** by reference to Greeks and Jews, slaves and free. What problems do they highlight? Are these fault-lines that are still present in the church now?

What is it that unites us (**v13**)? What insight does **Gal 5:19-26** give into why the things we've mentioned above produce division. What is the implication if we are to be united?

If our walk with and transformation by the Lord are so vital, what should we be doing in our Home Groups that will produce greater unity? Think about how it might change how we view our Home Group and what we do in it.

Two problems are identified in **v14-20** and **v21-27** respectively. What are the problems and what is the sinful attitude that might cause each attitude?

We're all failures saved by incredible grace and growing from babies towards greater maturity in Him. So what does **v22-25** suggest our attitude should be toward those who struggle, seem less 'presentable', or seem less able? Think and discuss: What does this mean in our Bible Study in this Home Group? What does it mean for our prayer times? What does it mean for our support for one another in the week?

The illustration of the body constantly emphasises the ongoing contribution and value of every part. What does this mean for us if we feel less able?, if we are tired or busy?, if we are struggling emotionally or physically?, if we feel we're spiritually weak?

How can you identify what God has given to you for use in the church? How might this Home Group help in encouraging our service in the church?

Regular Questions to End

Each time you meet we'd love you to end by asking some searching questions around the group. Be honest, so you can support one another as you learn and apply these things together in the days ahead!

- If there was one thing you could highlight that God is challenging you about to pray over / change / seek His help in, what is it?
- What can others pray for you to help you respond to His challenge?