

What is the Church?

Study 3: My place in the Body of Christ

READ 1 Corinthians 12:4-26 and **LISTEN** to Pastor Craig Baxter's [sermon](#).

The Apostle Paul tells believers that God has designed our physical bodies in such a way that they act as models for understanding our lives together as a local church. Every part is dependent upon the other – whether it is the parts that are hidden or visible – and all have been purposefully placed here by God, and each one is significant. Therefore, we are called to commit to a particular local church, to value the different spiritual gifts we and others have been given and to use those gifts to love and serve each other and build up the church in love.

Main lesson: We are called to consider our place, our commitment, and our function in the church and strive to fulfill the role God has assigned each of us.

Questions:

1. From vv. 4-7, what is the source and purpose of spiritual gifts and by what power do they function?
2. A. From vv. 12-14, what is meant by Christ's body and who is qualified to become a member of Christ's body? See also Gal 3:28; Eph 3:6.

B. Why should knowing this remove any form of cultural, racial, or social stigmatization and encourage mutual love and acceptance?
3. What do you think is meant by "baptized into one body" and "all were made to drink of the one Spirit"? See Ezk 36:25-27, Matt 3:11; Acts 1:5.

4. A. Read vv. 15-16. What is the wrong thinking of the foot and the ear and why might someone think like this? Do you or have you thought this way? Why?

B. What encouragement can you give someone who thinks this way? (vv. 15-20)
5. A. What does v. 21-24 say to those who overvalue their contribution? How might such thinking manifest itself?

B. Read Romans 12:3-5 and 1 Peter 4:10-11. How do these passages shatter any notion that spiritual gifts should be a source of sinful pride?
6. Based on the study and ministry experience, what spiritual gift(s) do you think you have been given? How might you use these gifts to serve HBC?
7. What three people will you contact in the coming week to express appreciation to them for their faithfulness in using their spiritual gift(s) to serve the church?
8. What has been your greatest takeaway from this study?

STOP AND PRAY:

Adore: the God of all wisdom who creates a people in Christ from all nations

Thank: the Lord for giving you specific gifts and empowering you to build His church

Pray: that you would faithfully use your spiritual gifts to serve the body at HBC