

1 CORINTHIANS 12

ONE BODY, MANY PARTS

BIBLE STUDY



STARTER: If someone asked you ‘why do you go to church?’, what would you reply?

Read 1 Corinthians 12 : 1-11

- What role does the Holy Spirit play in this chapter for us as believers? (**verses 3,4,7,11**).
- Why does the Spirit give gifts to the church? (**v7b**) Can you think of a practical way that you might see this carried out in the life of our church?
- Look at the gifts in **verses 7-11**.
 - What do you notice the gifts have in common?
 - Do any of them surprise you or puzzle you?



- How is the list here in **1 Corinthians 12** different from a list of how we might identify a ‘successful church’?
- How do **verses 1-11** help us remember why the Spirit distributes gifts to the church?

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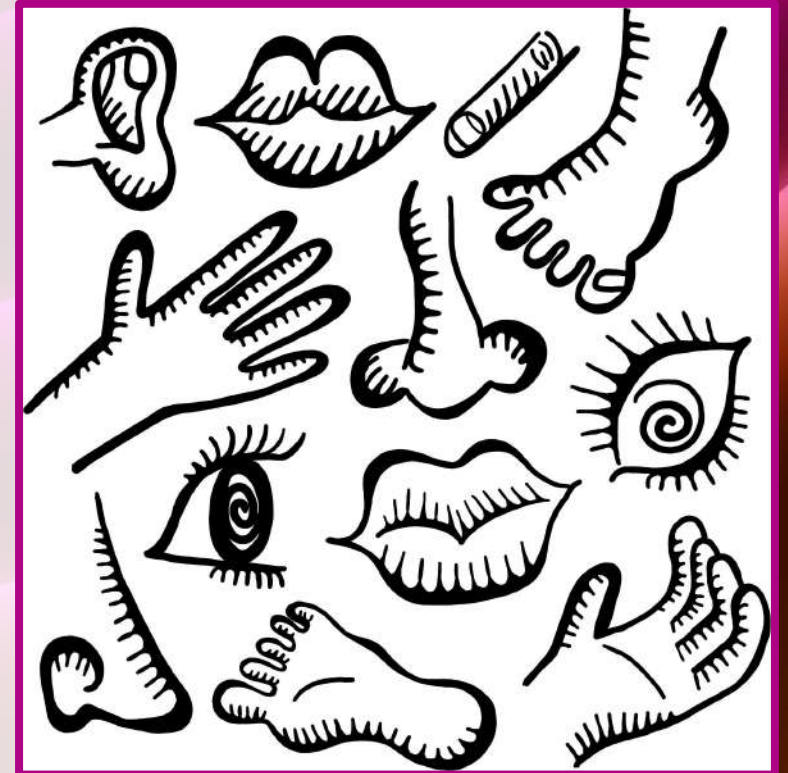


Read verses 12-31

Paul uses the well-known image of a body here to describe the church family.

Using this passage:

- What do you personally find helpful about this image of the church?
- What would you say to someone who feels as if they are not as useful in church life as others with different gifts?
- Is there a danger that we can look down on others in our church? Or might the way we act as a church promote some people more than others? How can we as a church ensure we treat everyone equally, as part of the same body?
- Looking at **verses 24-26**, what do you think is an indication that a church is filled with the Holy Spirit?



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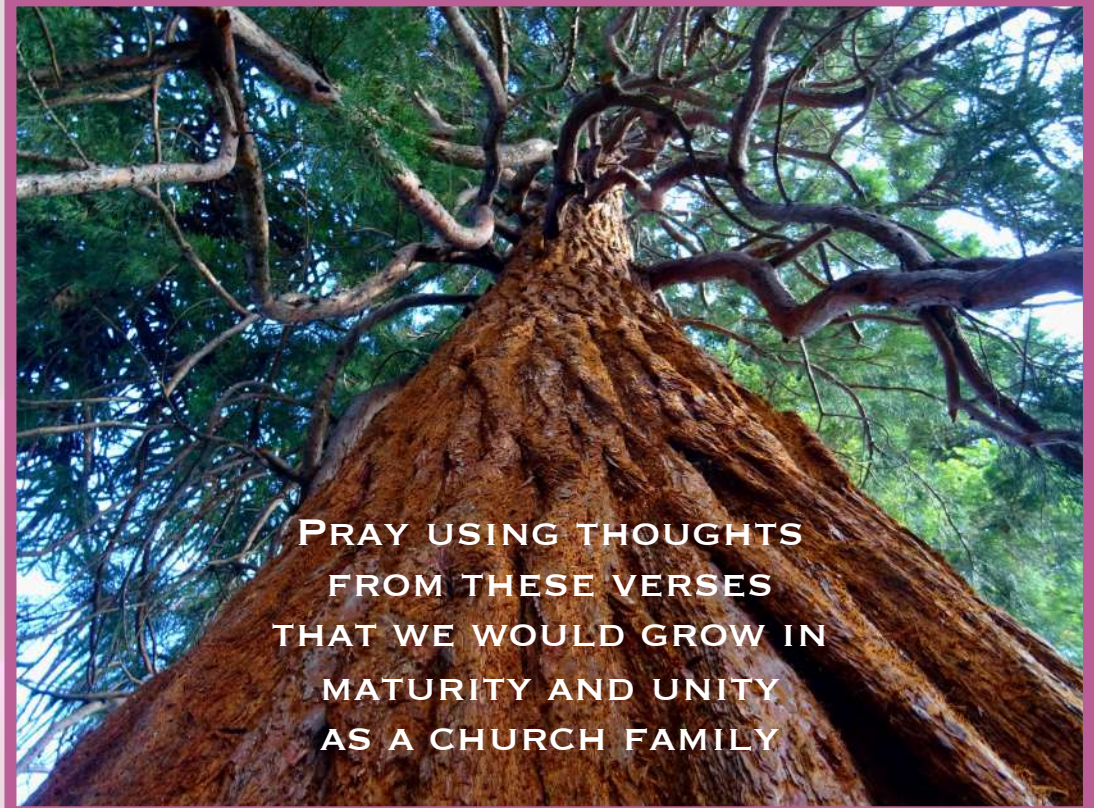
GOING DEEPER

The theme of unity comes across strongly in this chapter.

- Why is unity so important for believers? Why is it such a challenge?
- How does this chapter encourage us to grow in unity at Emmanuel?
- What can we do practically to help achieve this unity?

Look again at the two lists of spiritual gifts that are mentioned in this chapter – verses 8-10, and verse 28.

- Can you think of examples when you have been encouraged recently by someone exercising their spiritual gift?
- Do you feel as if you are able to identify your own spiritual gifting? If you feel it is hard to do so, talk as a group about how to help each other.



PRAY USING THOUGHTS
FROM THESE VERSES
THAT WE WOULD GROW IN
MATURITY AND UNITY
AS A CHURCH FAMILY

GO BACK TO THE STARTER QUESTION. WOULD YOU ANSWER IT ANY DIFFERENTLY NOW?