

**ONE BODY**  
*Romans 12:4-5*  
October 2, 2022

**Three analogies of what the church is like:**

- Living Stones in a Temple
- Citizens of a Nation
- Members of a Body

**1. The Diversity of the Body** (v. 4)

(The Message) Since we find ourselves fashioned into all these excellently formed and marvelously functioning parts in Christ's body, let's just go ahead and be what we were made to be, without enviously or pridefully comparing ourselves with each other, or trying to be something we aren't.

God's glory is revealed in the diversity of his people. (R. Hughes)

1 Peter 2:10

**The problems:**

- Wishing or wanting to be what others are
- Resenting others for being different / lack of appreciation for those are different from us
- Pride
- Quickness to take offense at others who do things differently than we do, or who rub us the wrong way, or see things differently than we do...
- Lack of concern for other members of the body since it is THEIR problem, not mine...

**The Challenge:** Are you willing to appreciate the diversity of the Body of Christ? This may mean having to look a little harder for that which is good in someone. It may mean trying a little harder to FOCUS on a person's GOOD traits rather than their more blatant weaknesses...

**2. The Harmony of the Body**

**The problems:**

- Self-consumption

The world's way is all too often to measure people against each other. How well we compete, and how much better we are than others, are ways we are measured. This competitive dimension of society shows up in everything. School grades are a way of measuring people against others. Sports are designed to select winners, and to separate them from losers. Our economy and businesses are again expressions of a competitive approach to life. The way we view others and our opinion of them are all directly related to how they compare, in terms of skills, education, looks, talents, character, etc. In tremendously significant ways, measured against others, each individual stands or falls alone. Larry Richards

In contrast to that: Philippians 2:3-8 (NIV84) – Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit, but in humility consider others better than yourselves. Each of you should look not only to your own interests, but also to the interests of others. Your attitude should be the same as that of Christ Jesus: Who, being in very nature God, did not consider equality with God something to be grasped, but made himself nothing, taking the very nature of a servant, being made in human likeness. And being found in appearance as a man, he humbled himself and became obedient to death—even death on a cross!

- Quarreling / dislike / disagreements / blameshifting...

**The Challenge:** Are you contributing to the greater harmony and coordination of the Body of Christ, particularly here at Restoration Church; or are you, through lack of support or dislike of others hindering what this body COULD be accomplishing?

### **3. The Mutuality of the Body**

the Message: vv. 3-5 The only accurate way to understand ourselves is by what God is and by what he does for us, not by what we are and what we do for him. Each part gets its meaning from the body as a whole, not the other way around. The body we're talking about is Christ's body of chosen people. Each of us finds our meaning and function as a part of his body. As a chopped-off finger or cut-off toe we wouldn't amount to much, would we?

#### **The problems:**

- Lack of concern for others
- Defining "needed" too narrowly
- Connection to the HEAD of the body
- The need to support other parts
- Living for SELF rather than for the body
- Feeling unneeded or unwanted

Each member exists for the body, rather than the other way around.

When I was in college I broke my leg, and the rest of my body felt so bad that it stayed up all night to keep my leg company! <sup>Hughes, R. K</sup>

#### **When I develop the divine viewpoint:**

- I am released from jealousy.
- I can find fulfillment in being who I am, rather than wanting to be like someone else.
- My friendships are not distorted by status—I am awed by none, and look down on none.
- I appreciate others for themselves, without feeling they must be different or must be like me. <sup>Richards, L.</sup>
- Rather than having to watch out for myself, I have a group around me that watches my back giving me the satisfaction and joy of ministering to others.
- I stand or fall with my brothers and sisters. I don't have to stand alone.
- My connection to Jesus is all the stronger for being strongly connected to His body.

**A Truth to Remember:** It was never God's intention to save a bunch of individuals. It was always His intent to build a community.

**A Challenge to Consider:** Are you working to strengthen the BODY of Christ, finding fulfillment in the body as a whole rather than just your individual life?

**One thing I heard this morning was...**