

# Church Matters

The **Body** of the Church

# TALKINGPOINTS WALKINGPOINTS



A publication of **DISCIPLE**, the adult discipleship ministry of Triangle Community Church.

**Talk** together about the glory of God's kingdom. –Psalm 145:11  
Love the Lord your God and **walk** in all his ways. –Joshua 22:5

## Questions for Reflection & Discussion

- What from Sunday's message interested you? ...made sense to you? ...confused you? ...intrigued you? ...upset you? ...encouraged you? ...and **why**?
- Open your Bibles to 1 Corinthians 12:12-27 (or page two of these *Talking Points, Walking Points*) and let's discuss the church as a "body"...

Pastor Dan noted that the two verses which open and close this passage (v. 12-13 and 26-17) serve as "book-ends", introducing and concluding these ideas about the church as a "body".

Paul makes the point that "a **single** body is composed of **many** diverse parts" (see the next page). How is this truth both simple enough for a child to understand, yet profound enough to engage adults?

- Verses 14-16 make the point that "self-proclaimed exclusion does not in fact exclude one from the body." Who have you known who felt themselves worthless to contribute anything at church? Tell us about him.
- Verses 17-20 teach that every body part is essential, and sovereignly placed in the body by God. Who has discovered his place in the body—and is excited and grateful for it? Tell us about it.

Who here feels disappointed or discouraged when he thinks about his place in the church body?

- Pastor Dan noted that Christians often leave churches when they become discouraged that others do not value the same things that they value—yet an ear **cannot** appreciate what an eye does. What would you say to a friend who who is a member of a solid biblical church, but who, in terms of his gifting, feels as if he "doesn't fit"?

If he decided **to** stay put... To what attitudes and actions must he commit? What might result?

If he decided **not** to stay... To what attitudes and actions must he commit? What might result?

Have you ever felt that way? What did you do? What resulted? Would you tell us about it?

If you were granted a "do over", what would you do the same? differently?

2022.8.28

## 1 Corinthians 12:12-27

12 For even as the body is one and yet has many members, and all the members of the body, though they are many, are one body, so also is Christ.

*A single body  
is composed of  
many diverse parts.*

13 For also by one Spirit we were all immersed into one single body, whether Jews or Greeks, whether slaves or free, and we were all made to drink of one Spirit.

14 For also the body is not one member, but many.

*If you're a true believer in Christ,  
you can't disqualify yourself  
from the body just by saying so.*

15 If the foot says, "Because I am not a hand, I am not a part of the body," it is not for this reason any the less a part of the body.

16 And if the ear says, "Because I am not an eye, I am not a part of the body," it is not for this reason any the less a part of the body.

17 If the whole body were an eye, where would the hearing be?

If the whole were hearing, where would the sense of smell be?

18 But now God has appointed the members, each one of them, in the body, just as He desired.

*God has said that every part is essential~  
and that he gets to decide  
what part we each are!*

19 And if they were all one member, where would the body be?

20 But now there are many members, but one body.

21 And the eye cannot say to the hand, "I have no need of you";  
or again the head to the feet, "I have no need of you."

22 On the contrary, how much more is it that the members of the body which seem to be weaker are necessary,

*Others can't make you  
less important to the body  
just by saying so.*

23 and those members of the body which we think as less honorable,

on these we bestow more abundant honor,

and our less presentable members become much more presentable,

24 whereas our more presentable members have no such need.

But God has so composed the body, giving more abundant honor to that member which lacked,

25 so that there may be no division in the body,

but that the members may have the same care for one another.

26 And if one member suffers, all the members suffer with it;  
if one member is honored, all the members rejoice with it.

*A single body  
is composed of  
many diverse parts.*

27 Now you are Christ's body, and individually members of it.

**The Bible, and only the Bible, has the authority to define the church. So, what IS the church? An institution? A club or voluntary association? It's much more than most of us realize! In 1 Timothy 3:15, Paul referred to the church as "the household of God", "the assembly of the Living God", and "the pillar and support of the truth".**

**Monday**—Key Truth: The true church is God's redeemed people. It belongs to God.

- Read Matthew 16:18. **Whose** church is the church?  
How do you typically feel about things that are yours? How do you think God feels about his church?
- Acts 20:28 says: "...*God purchased the church with His own blood.*"  
How do you typically feel about things that cost you dearly? So, how do you think God feels about his church?
- 1 Corinthians 3:16-17 says: "**Do you not know that you are a temple of God, and that the Spirit of God dwells in you? If any man corrupts the temple of God, God will destroy him, for the temple of God is holy, and that is what you are.**"  
English does not distinguish second-person **singular** from second-person **plural** ("you" vs. "you all"), but Greek does, so I've clarified them for you below. Let's dig deeply into this rich passage.  
⇒ "**Do you (plural) not know that you (plural) are a temple of God...**" What does Paul say that the church in Corinth is?  
⇒ "...*and that the Spirit of God dwells in you (plural)?...*" Believers are God's temple. Who dwells in them?  
⇒ "... **If any man (singular) corrupts the temple of God, God will destroy him (singular)...**" Who protects the church? But what does it mean to "corrupt" the church ("the temple of God")?! Read 1 Corinthians 1:11-13 & 3:3-7 to find out!

**Tuesday**—Key Truth: The church as we know it on Earth is a mixture of "wheat and weeds"—true believers and lost people.

- Read Matthew 13:24-30 and 36-43. Complete the following chart:

The sower (v. 24, 37) is...
The field (v. 24, 38) is...
The good seed (v. 27, 38) are...
The bad seed (v. 25-27, 38) are...
The enemy who mixes unbelievers among believers (v. 25, 39) is...
When did the difference between the wheat and the weeds become evident (v. 26)?
When will the weeds be removed from the wheat (v. 28-30, 39)?
After the weeds have been removed, how will the church appear (v. 43)?
Do you know for certain that you're "wheat"? How can you know?

**Wednesday**—Key Truth: The entire Trinity—Father, Son, and Spirit—are committed to the church.

- Read Ephesians 1:3-5. **When** did the Father choose us (v. 4)? What does v. 5 call this act of choosing?
- Read Ephesians 4:12 and 5:25. **Whose body** is the church? How did Christ make us his body?
- Read 1 Corinthians 12:13. **Who** places us into the body of Christ? What does John 3:6-8 call this act?
- Read 1 Peter 1:1-2. Show how each member of the Trinity is intimately involved in the origin and operation of the church.

**Thursday**—Key Truth: The church is the "pillar and support" of God's truth (1 Timothy 3:15).

- Look up "pillar" in a standard English dictionary (such as dictionary.com). What is a pillar? What function does it accomplish? Look up "support" in the dictionary. What does a "support" do? What happens when something is unsupported?
- Wait! Isn't God's Word powerful (Hebrews 4:12)?! Does truth **really need** to be supported? (Before you answer, go to YouTube and watch: "Victoria Osteen: Worship for YOURSELF!")
- What role should pastors play in "supporting the truth"? What role should church members play in supporting the truth?
- Skim Revelation 2-3 and place a "✓" next to the names of the churches which did a good job "supporting the truth" and a "x" next to those which failed to support the truth:  Ephesus (2:1-7),  Smyrna (2:8-11),  Pergamum (2:12-17),  Thyatira (2:18-29),  Sardis (3:1-6),  Philadelphia (3:7-13),  Laodicea (3:14-22).
- **How many** of the seven churches of Revelation still exist today? So, **how important is it** that the truth be supported?

**Friday**—Key Truth: The church "supports the truth" by **proclaiming** it and by **protecting** it.

- Read Acts 13:1-2. **Who** initiates the proclamation of the truth?  
Read Ephesians 4:11-16. In v. 11, **who** proclaims the truth? In v. 15-16 **who** proclaims the truth?
- According to Titus 3:9-11, **who** protects the truth? (Hint: To whom was "Titus" written—to a pastor or to church members?)  
According to Romans 16:17, **who** protects the truth? (Hint: To whom was Romans written—to a pastor or to church members?)
- According to 2 Timothy 2:15-26, **how** do we protect the truth?

**Saturday**—Key Truth: The purposes of the church include worship, evangelism, discipleship, and caring for one-another.

- Read John 4:23-24. What do you learn about worship?  
Read Philippians 3:1-3. What do you learn about worship?  
Compare Colossians 3:16-17 to Ephesians 5:18-21. What do you learn about worship?
- Read Acts 1:8 and Matthew 28:18-20. Although these originally were spoken to the Apostles only, what hints do we see in them which prove that they are for all believers to obey?
- What is commanded in Romans 14:19? How do you think disciples are "built up"?  
Read Acts 2:41-47. What were all the things listed here which built new believers up in their faith?
- Read Acts 4:32-35. How do we see believers caring for one another in this passage?
  1. According to Romans 12:10, specifically what must you do to build up other believers?
  2. According to Romans 14:19, specifically what must you do to build up other believers?
  3. According to Romans 15:7, specifically what must you do to build up other believers?
  4. According to Ephesians 4:2, specifically what must you do to build up other believers?
  5. According to Ephesians 5:21, specifically what must you do to build up other believers?
  6. According to Philippians 2:13, specifically what must you do to build up other believers?
  7. According to Colossians 3:13, specifically what must you do to build up other believers?
  8. According to 1 Thessalonians 5:13, specifically what must you do to build up other believers?



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The Bible uses multiple metaphors for the church, but two of them are particularly powerful for helping our children understand: the church is a body, and the church is a family.

This week at the dinnertable, explore each of these "word-pictures". You could ask:

- We're the "Smith Family", right? I'm confused~help me with something. I'm a "Smith", Momma's a "Smith", and you each are "Smiths". How can that be?! I thought there was only one "Smith Family".
- Or, playing off the ideas of 1 Corinthians 12:15-16 and 21, say:  
"This morning when I got up, my head said to my feet, '**Hey!** *You're not a head, so you're not part of my body. I don't need you!*' My feet were speechless! What do you think they should have said?"