

Where Do I fit In?

1 Corinthians 12: 12-27

Have you ever looked under the hood of a new car? There are so many moving parts and with today's technology computers play a big part in keeping things running properly. It's crazy to think that a small computer chip could shut down an entire car if it malfunctions.

Everything must be functioning in time and in order so that we can get from point "A" to point "B". But that's also assuming that all of the other parts are doing their job properly. You could have a 1967 Ford Mustang fastback but if the motor isn't firing on all cylinders you could be operating like a Geo Metro.

You have the appearance of hot rod muscle car, but at a closer glance, it's really a Geo Metro. Most churches operate in this capacity. Have you ever heard of the 80/20 rule? 80% of the members are doing nothing, while 20% is doing everything.

I don't believe that people are that lazy and unconcerned about their job. I just think most folks don't know where they fit in, which leads up to our text today.

Vs. 12, "The body is a unit, though it is made up of many parts; and though all its parts are many, they form one body. So it is with Christ."

"The body is a unit." Meaning, made up of many diverse parts. The church isn't Khaki and plain but rather a kaleidoscope of many colors coming together to reflect Christ's glory together. Vs. 12, "Though all its parts are many, they form one body." Each part doesn't operate independently for its own good because each part affects another part. It's a chain reaction.

Vs. 13, "For we were all baptized by one Spirit into one body whether Jews or Greeks, slave or free and we were given one Spirit to drink."

Illustration: I remember going to an outreach that Biju and Sarah put on last Christmas. They invited all of their Hindu friends together for a big meal and some games, music, and Biju told the Christmas story. I ate food there that I had not

eaten before that happened to stay with me for quite some time. Everyone had their native clothing on and beauty of our differences was quit splendid.

I've been to Gus and Felipa's house and had the best Mexican food ever. Every time I thought I was about to make a dint in the food that was on my plate, Felipa would pour on more food. I was in heaven. Dana had to wheel me out of there in a wheel barrel. Thank God for diversity in the body!

Vs. 14-20, this is mainly addressed to those who feel their gifts are inferior or unimportant. Here is the bottom line... you have an assignment! You have been ordained. You have been set apart. You have been arranged in the body for a reason. Man didn't ordain you, God did!!! Look at Vs. 18, "But in fact God has arranged the parts in the body, every one of them, just as he wanted them to be."

But here's the thing, some of you are blowing your assignment! Your gift isn't unimportant, you are needed!!!! Listen again to the scripture, "God has arranged the parts of the body, every one of them."

What does that mean? It means you fit in!!! You belong!! Engage where God has placed you and function in it!!

Vs. 21-26 tells us that No one can say, "I don't need you." Every one of you listen closely at your pastor this morning. Are you ready? The Church needs you!!! You have value. Stop complaining about your gift and start using it!! You just might like it.

Illustration: I remember reading a story about a lady who was trying to find her place in the church but felt like she couldn't do much and had little to offer. One day as she was visiting her daughter in the hospital she walked by the maternity ward and saw these sick little baby's that were no bigger than your two hands put together. Her heart broke. She asked the head nurse if these babies are picked up and held. The nurse said that they meet their medical needs and do the best that they can but not everyone gets held every day. Then the Lord spoke to her and said will you be my arms? Through a series of events the lady was cleared to go in and rock those babies daily so they would know that they were loved.

Who said your gift was confined to a building where the church meets? You are the church where ever you go!!

I heard of another lady that was elderly that used her passion for crocheting and turned it into a ministry for cancer patients. She recruited a dozen of her friends to crochet hats to keep their heads warm when they lose their hair.

Vs. 27, "Now you are the Body of Christ, and each one of you are a part of it."

I love how Paul addresses people specifically. He was talking to the Corinthian church but he is also talking to each of us individually as well.

God is leading this church to a place it has never been before and we cannot get there under the power of a Geo Metro. We need the power of the Holy Spirit powering every member because there are no unimportant parts. He is arranging us to function and do our part so that we can see people healed, delivered, and transformed through the power of the Holy Spirit.

God has spoken to me about meeting the needs of this community and I can't do it without you. Let's do it together for the glory of God!!

Why can't you be his hands extended?

Show Casting Crowns video.