

RESTORATION 17-01-10

“Created for Community”

1Cor. 12:12 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. 13 For we were all baptized by one Spirit into one body — whether Jews or Greeks, slave or free — and we were all given the one Spirit to drink.

1Cor. 12:14 Now the body is not made up of one part but of many. 15 If the foot should say, “Because I am not a hand, I do not belong to the body,” it would not for that reason cease to be part of the body. 16 And if the ear should say, “Because I am not an eye, I do not belong to the body,” it would not for that reason cease to be part of the body. 17 If the whole body were an eye, where would the sense of hearing be? If the whole body were an ear, where would the sense of smell be? 18 But in fact God has arranged the parts in the body, every one of them, just as he wanted them to be. 19 If they were all one part, where would the body be? 20 As it is, there are many parts, but one body.

1Cor. 12:26 If one part suffers, every part suffers with it; if one part is honoured, every part rejoices with it.

1Cor. 12:27 Now you are the body of Christ, and each one of you is a part of it.

Questions for further study...

1. Spend some time talking about the community where you live- would you describe it as having a strong sense of community or otherwise? How is the community where you live different from the community at church?
2. Look at 1 John 3:16. How can we practically put this into practice? Describe a time when you have felt others doing this for you.
3. Read Ephesians 4:15-16. What is the glue that sticks us together?

If we are to become more Christ-like in our community, we need to increase in love. What does love look like? (Read 1 Corinthians 13:4-7).
4. As Christ’s body we are to represent him in the world. How will the community around us know that we are Christ’s body (John 13:34-35)?
5. As a church where ‘no perfect people are allowed’ we sometimes we have differences of opinion and are hurt by others in our community. How are we to conduct ourselves in this situation? (Read Ephesians 4:1-6). Ask God for help in this area.
6. In a moment of quiet read 1 Corinthians 13:4-7 again, pausing after each “love is...”. As you do so ask God to bring certain situations to mind and ask for his help in being more loving in that situation.

Have a great week!