

THE LOCAL CHURCH

Serving: Every Part

I. Every believer is called to a local church and has a part to play in the operation of that church and every part matters to the Lord

A. Every part matters-1Cor12:12-For as the body is one, and hath many members, and all the members of that one body, being many, are one body: so also is Christ. **13** For by one Spirit are we all baptized into one body, whether we be Jews or Gentiles, whether we be bond or free; and have been all made to drink into one Spirit. **14** For the body is not one member, but many. **15** If the foot shall say, Because I am not the hand, I am not of the body; is it therefore not of the body? **16** And if the ear shall say, Because I am not the eye, I am not of the body; is it therefore not of the body? **17** If the whole body were an eye, where were the hearing? If the whole were hearing, where were the smelling? **18** But now hath God set the members every one of them in the body, as it hath pleased him. **19** And if they were all one member, where were the body? **20** But now are they many members, yet but one body. **21** And the eye cannot say unto the hand, I have no need of thee: nor again the head to the feet, I have no need of you. **22** Nay, much more those members of the body, which seem to be more feeble, are necessary (what one cannot do without, indispensable): **23** And those members of the body, which we think to be less honorable (important), upon these we bestow more abundant honor; and our uncomely (inelegant) parts have more abundant comeliness. **24** For our comely parts have no need: but God hath tempered the body together, having given more abundant honor to that part which lacked **25** That there should be no schism in the body; but that the members should have the same care one for another. **26** And whether one member suffer, all the members suffer with it; or one member be honoured, all the members rejoice with it. **27** Now ye are the body of Christ, and members in particular. **28** And God hath set some in the church, first apostles, secondarily prophets, thirdly teachers, after that miracles, then gifts of healings, helps, governments, diversities of tongues. **29** Are all apostles? are all prophets? are all teachers? are all workers of miracles? **30** Have all the gifts of healing? do all speak with tongues? do all interpret? **31** But covet earnestly the best gifts: and yet shew I unto you a more excellent way.

1. 12-14-The church is like a body-It is one unit made up many different parts; The body isn't one part, it's many parts with different purposes and functions each helping the operation of this one body
2. 15-17-All the parts are not supposed to be the same-If it were the body couldn't do the things that it needs to do
3. 18-Every part has a necessary function-VO-God has meticulously put this body together; He placed each part in the exact place to perform the exact function He wanted
4. Beware of part envy-Do your job, embrace your part
5. 21-Every part matters-We need every part for the body to function at full capacity
6. 22-The parts that seem to be more feeble (low, small) are necessary (indispensable, can't do without)-There are parts that seem to be low or small, but actually are very important-Is this true?
 - a. To our eyes there are parts that seem to be low or small-God said these parts are actually indispensable
7. 23-There are parts of the body that we think or less honorable (important)-God says upon these parts that you think are less important bestow even more value because they are not less important
8. 23-There are uncomely (inelegant) parts in the body-There are parts of the body that lack prestige in the eyes of people; These are the parts/jobs that people don't ooh and ahh about (I.E. Quarterback)
 - a. Pride wants prestige because it seeks the praise of people-Humility seeks honor and praise from God
9. 24-God gives more abundant honor to these parts that seem feeble, seem less honorable and lack elegance-Don't mistake lack of prestige with lack of importance because to the Lord every part matters
10. 25-God does that (V24) that there be no division, but equal care-The church is divided into important parts and non-important parts; Equal care means every part matters
11. 26-We are one body-We know that without me you couldn't do your part so if someone honors you I rejoice
12. 27-Every believer is a part and every part matters
13. 28-31-Do your job, and be a person of love-This is better than being an apostle, prophet, teacher, gifts of healing; God is not impressed with you because of gifts He gave you (with an apostle because he's an apostle)

II. Magnify your office and never despise it

A. Ministry to the Gentiles could've been looked at like a lesser thing because they were outsiders-Rm11:13-I speak to you Gentiles inasmuch as I am the apostle of the Gentiles, I magnify mine (honor, esteem) office

- B. Don't despise your part because it lacks prestige-The big thing is not WHAT are you doing, but WHO are you doing it for-We are serving The Lord and any job done for the Lord is a prestigious one
- C. It's a privilege to get to serve the Lord in any capacity-You don't have to you get to-**Eph3:8**-*Unto me, who am less than the least of all the saints, is this grace (privilege) given that I should preach among the Gentiles the unsearchable riches of Christ*
- D. Be faithful with the part God gave you-**Mt25:23**-*You have been faithful over a few things; I will make you ruler over many things*
- E. What we do we do like we are doing it for the Lord-**Col3:23-24**-*And whatsoever you do, do it heartily as to the Lord and not unto men; Knowing that of the Lord you shall receive the reward of inheritance: for you serve the Lord Jesus Christ*
 - 1. **MLK**-*If a man is called to be a street sweeper, he should sweep streets even as Michelangelo painted, or Beethoven composed music, or Shakespeare wrote poetry. He should sweep streets so well that all the hosts of heaven and earth will pause to say, here lived a great street sweeper who did his job well*
- F. Your ministry may lack prestige, but that doesn't mean it has to lack power-Stephen's job was to minister food to the widows and yet God did miracles through him, but this was after he got into his service ministry that lack prestige