

Discovery Group - Community Foundations

(5) *Body of Christ*

Accountability

Share how your obedience commitment from last week went, and who you shared with.

Bible: **1 Corinthians 12:12-31**

Read *passage* aloud & someone retell in their own words

- What do we learn from this passage about God?
- What do we learn from this passage about people?

Read the *article* on the next page.

- What do we learn from the passage about Christian community (family)?
- What are practical obstacles to living out the reality of this passage? How can we overcome these?

Commit

What is Jesus calling you to do in *obedience* this week?

Who can you *share* this with? Who can you reach out to in order to make disciples?

Abide: Read and meditate on the following passages this week:

Romans 12:1-21 1 Corinthians 13:1-13 Ephesians 4:1-16

Body of Christ

As we consider the picture of the Body of Christ, let us once again remember that our purpose together is to glorify Jesus and reveal His character to the world around us. This happens powerfully when each member of the body does his / her part (see Ephesians 4:15-16).

The big idea in our passage (1 Cor 12:12-31) is that each member of the body is needed. The beauty - and the challenge - is that there is such a diversity of members. A diversity of gifts and personalities and experiences and knowledge. And yet we're not allowed to consider some of less importance than others. God Himself has determined the place and role of each person. *"But in fact God has placed the parts in the body, every one of them, just as he wanted them to be."* (1 Cor 12:18). This has extremely significant implications:

First, you are needed. You have to fill your role. You have to. The body - your local family of believers - cannot be what God has designed it to be without your full, selfless, committed engagement. You are vital. You yourself are a gift.

Secondly, everyone else is also needed. Just as much as you. And no more than you. Whatever position or title or role you or they have, none are more significant than the others. We have to be ruthless on this point. We cannot afford to harbor thoughts that we'd be better off without so-and-so.

Thirdly, unity is a HUGE priority. Your gifts and passions and experiences are vital - but not for the purpose of self-actualization. No, we have a much greater cause than that! Everything that you bring is given to serve the whole. We cannot insist on using our gifts or following our passions to the point of causing strife. We only use them in the pursuit of unity. All self-focused use of gifts and talents leads to disunity. We offer all that we have in service to the body.

Fourthly, the good of the body is everyone's very big concern. What concerns the person in your body with whom you relate to the least is of unspeakable importance to you. They cannot hurt without you feeling the pain. They cannot rejoice without you experiencing the joy. You are part of one body.