

**Mosaic: We All Have a Part (2)**  
**1 Corinthians 12:12-31, Week of Feb 11, 2018**  
**Bay Park Life Groups - Leader**

*What if there's a hole in the church, like a missing puzzle piece in Jesus' presence in the world today... and you're it?*

~ from the sermon

*No man is an island entire of itself;  
every man is a piece of the continent, a part of the main.*

~ John Donne

This week we learned, from 1 Cor. 12:12-31, that one body (*the church*) is possible by one means (*the Spirit*) to communicate one reality (*Jesus*). In other words, the church is a beautiful mosaic glued together by the Spirit to paint a picture of Jesus for the world. When we drift away from the church as “an island entire of itself,” or if we refuse to utilize our spiritual gifts out of fear, we are depriving the church of ourselves. The body of Christ is missing the important function of a finger, ear or organ.

### **Warming Up**

1. Have you ever...

- ...had the chance to study or learn about biology beyond high school? What amazes you most about the human body?
- ...had a preacher that you were maybe just a little too enthusiastic about?
- ...experienced the frustration of missing just one puzzle piece?  
Have a lighthearted (even silly) conversation but try to bring back to mind some of the illustrations that were used during the sermon.

### **Digging In**

*Read 1 Corinthians 12:12-13 and John 17:20-23*

In these verses Paul emphasizes the unity of the church based on its' oneness. That is, there is only one church made possible through one means (the indwelling of the Holy Spirit).

2. How does 1 Cor 12:12-13 connect with Jesus' prayer in John 17? How is the church today succeeding at “being one?” Where is there room for growth?  
Leaders: You're trying to help the group connect that there is one body made possible by one means (1 Cor. 12) with the fact that our unity as a church shows the unity of the Godhead (John 17). You're trying to help your LG identify the importance of being unified and not divided in our church. Make sure the conversation focuses first on the positive. What are some good things happening at Bay Park, in Kingston, around the globe that encourage us about the unification of the church? Ensure any critiques are constructive and not pessimistic.

*Read 1 Corinthians 12:14-31*

In these verses Paul emphasizes the diversity of the church based on the uniqueness of each individual. He likens the church to a body which is one whole entity but made up of a variety of parts.

Paul uses the human body as a metaphor for understanding the church. It is a whole, united entity but made up of many different parts. Paul takes the metaphor to the extreme, some of what he says is even goofy and absurd.

3. What does Paul's body illustration teach us about...

- ...how to relate to one another within the church?
  - i. No one is superior or inferior (v18).
  - ii. We all rely on one another, we are interdependent and not independent. We need our church family.
  - iii. To fight and divide negatively affects the functioning of the church, and divides the image of Christ in the world (v21).
  - iv. No one is "more honourable" or "less honourable" in the church because they have or do not have a certain gifting (v.23-25).
- ...why God distributes and gives spiritual gifts?
  - v. To push us to work together and form community.
  - vi. To help us become unified as one, much like Jesus and the Father.
  - vii. To give us each a function and a purpose in the church.
  - viii. To foster a sense of belonging (v.27).
- ...what we should avoid or be leery of in regards to spiritual gifts?
  - ix. Assuming we are unimportant because we do not have a specific gift, or downplaying our gifts (v.16).
  - x. Uniformity is not unity. We do not need to all be gifted in the same way or criticize people who are not gifted the way we are. We're all just one part of the body, one piece in the mosaic. (v.17-20).

During the last two sermons we have discussed four spiritual gifts:

- Wisdom → *To speak to the life of an individual or to a specific situation with great understanding and a righteous perspective, with the goal of guiding others toward a life of holiness and worship. (cf. 1 Cor. 1:17-31, 2:1-16, 12:8; James 3:13-18)*
  - Faith → *The spiritual gift of faith is not to be confused with saving faith. Those with the gift of faith trust that God is sovereign and He is good. They take Him at His Word and put the full weight of their lives in His hands. They expect God to move and are not surprised when He answers a prayer or performs a miracle. (cf. 1 Cor. 13:2, Matt. 17:20).*
  - Mercy → *Those with this gift are able to come alongside people over extended periods of time and see them through their healing process. They are truly and literally the hands and feet of God to the afflicted. (cf. Rom. 12:6,8; Luke 5:12-13)*
  - Apostleship → *The mission for those with the gift of apostleship today is to plant new ministries and churches, go into places where the Gospel is not preached, reach across cultures to establish churches in challenging environments. (cf. Ephesians 4:11-12)*
4. If comfortable... Scale of 1 to 10 (1 = definitely not my thing; 10 = completely confident I am gifted in this way), how likely is it that you...

- ...have the gift of wisdom?
- ...have the gift of faith?
- ...have the gift of mercy?
- ...have the gift of apostleship?
- Would you be able to affirm or push back on anyone's ranking of themselves? in other words, Are there people in your LG you believe might have one of these gifts?

Leaders: You're trying to foster healthy conversations, helping the individuals in your group consider how God has gifted them. The scale does not need to be rigid, and it's just an idea. If it is not working well you could also change the question. Perhaps ask if anyone believes they have any of those four gifts, and to share why they suspect they may have one of the four. If nobody is comfortable discussing themselves, you can ask them to think of examples of people they know who have these gifts.

## **Driving It Home**

At the end of the sermon there was a challenge called "Careful Not to Hide Your Puzzle Piece." It's possible some of us are not living out our spiritual gifts due to fear. Fear of failure, imperfection, the opinions of others. But we cannot let fear paralyze us, or we may be the missing puzzle piece in the mosaic of the church!

*Read Matthew 25:14-27*

5. What does Jesus' story teach us about not utilizing our spiritual gifts?
6. Why would God hold us accountable for not utilizing our skills and talents for his Kingdom?
  - Leaders: Through these two questions, help the LG see that ultimately our gifts come from God. They are God's, and not our own. They are for others benefit and for God's worship. If we hide them out of fear, we're treating the gifts as if they are ours.
7. Spend time in prayer.
  - Pray for God to provide wisdom and discernment about how he has gifted you and how he wants you to utilize your gifts for the Kingdom.
  - Consider praying more about this on your own and discuss how your LG can support one another in this discernment.