

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

*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?

Digging In

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

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?

Read 1 Corinthians 12:14-31

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?
- ...why God distributes and gives spiritual gifts?

- ...what we should avoid or be leery of in regards to spiritual gifts?

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?

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?
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.