

# TOGETHER

DESIGNED FOR RELATIONSHIP & COMMUNITY

MESSAGE: GARY DARNELL

MUSIC: DAN GILLETTE

DATE: SEPTEMBER 20, 2020

A Needy Group of People Is Jesus' Church  
1 Corinthians 12:21-26

## What we've seen & must get "together":

1. We confidently serve one another due to God's design (12:4-11).
2. God's church has all the variety it will ever need (12:12-20).
3. All God's people, especially those easily noticed, need other believers (12:21-26).

And remember:

**1Cor. 4:6** *I have applied all these things to myself and Apollos for your benefit, brothers, that you may learn by us not to go beyond what is written, that none of you may be puffed up in favor of one against another. 7 For who sees anything different in you? What do you have that you did not receive? If then you received it, why do you boast as if you did not receive it?*

## **Theme: every believer needs the influence of other believers (21).**

**1Cor. 12:21** *The eye cannot say to the hand, "I have no need of you," nor again the head to the feet, "I have no need of you."*

## **Illustrations: we care for the human body's vital but vulnerable parts (22-24a).**

1. The weaker parts of the body are urgently needed (22).

**1Cor. 12:22** *On the contrary, the parts of the body that seem to be weaker are indispensable,*

2. The easily forgotten/neglected parts are actually superior in value (23a).

**1Cor. 12:23a** *and on those parts of the body that we think less honorable we bestow the greater honor, . . .*

3. The less flattering parts receive special care (23b-24a).

**1Cor. 12:23-24a** *. . . and our unpresentable parts are treated with greater modesty, 24a which our more presentable parts do not require.*

**Purpose: God's church thrives in the midst of mutual need by His design (24b-26).**

1. God determines the mix of people in each local church (24b).

**1Cor. 12:24b** . . . *But God has so composed the body, . . .*

2. He allows no hierarchy among His people, but values the obscure (24c).

**1Cor. 12:24c** . . . *giving greater honor to the part that lacked it,*

3. His mix is perfect so as to foster a unified & caring community (25-26).

**1Cor. 12:25** *that there may be no division in the body, but that the members may have the same care for one another. 26 If one member suffers, all suffer together; if one member is honored, all rejoice together.*

**Discussion & Reflection Questions [Figuring Things Out]:**

1. Review the first two portions we've already looked at in 1 Corinthians 12:4-20 (4-11 and 12-20). How can these two sections influence your involvement with God's people? What stands out most to you from these two groups?
2. Summarize the meaning of 1 Corinthians 4:6-7 in your own words. How does this short portion relate to 1 Corinthians 12:4-20?
3. In regard to Paul's intent in 12:21, does your gifting/function in the church lean in the direction of being an "eye/head" or "hand/feet"? Explain your reasoning.
4. Of Paul's three illustrations given in 22-24a which one do you most relate to and which do you have questions about?
5. If you had to decide right now where you most helpfully function in God's church, how would you answer? Can you think of a specific example where you brought unity or expressed care or joined with others in their suffering and rejoicing? See verses 25-26.

**SONGS**

"Let Us See Your Glory" - Valley Bible Worship

"Together In This Fight" - Valley Bible Worship

"Sovereign Over Us" - Bryan Brown, Aaron Keyes, Jack Mooring

"Cornerstone" - William Batchelder Bradbury, Eric Liljero,  
Reuben Morgan, Edward Mote, Jonas Myrin

**BUDGET**

GIVING LAST WEEK: \$54,018.00  
WEEKLY NEED: \$34,979.00

YTD GIVING: \$1,273,625.00  
YTD GENERAL NEED: \$1,294,223.00