

TOGETHER

DESIGNED FOR RELATIONSHIP & COMMUNITY

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DATE: OCTOBER 25, 2020

REVIEW & USE

Week #1: Designed for Relationship – 1 Corinthians 12:4-11

A. *God equips His people to influence others (vv. 4-7)*

1. *The gifts come from the Spirit (vs. 4)*
2. *The people & places to use them come from the Lord Jesus (vs. 5)*
3. *The influence for good comes from the Father (vs. 6)*
4. *Don't miss the Trinity!*
5. *The Spirit is thus revealed and others profited (vs. 7)*

B. *Examples of some of the gifts the Spirit distributes (vv. 8-10)*

C. *The Spirit oversees the entire process (vs. 11)*

Week #2: United but Diverse – 1 Corinthians 12:12-20

The Spirit immerses each believer into Christ and unites us to one another (vv. 12-13)

1. *All believers belong to the body of Christ (vs. 12)*
2. *All believers share a common immersion and are indwelt by the same Spirit (vs. 13)*

Spirit Baptism provides for our:

1. *Freedom / Life (Romans 6:4)*
2. *Unification (Ephesians 4:4)*

Having been united, each believer functions distinctly within the whole (vv. 14-20)

1. *The church is diverse (vs. 14)*
2. *The needs of the church demand diversity of gifting (vv. 15-17)*
3. *In fact, diversity is part of God's design and is essential to the church's function (vv. 18-20)*

Week #3: Koinonia

Koinonia: _____

Christian Koinonia Common Denominator: _____

Christian Koinonia (Fellowship / Community) Requires 4 Commitments for relational care:

1. *Authenticity (1 Thess. 2:8; 1 John 1:7)*
2. *Mutuality (Romans 1:12; 12:10; 14:19; Phil. 2:3)*
3. *Compassion Matt. 9:36; 14:14; Mark 6:34; Gal. 6:2; 2 Cor. 5:14)*
4. *Mercy, Forgiveness, & Grace (Colossians 3:13)*

Week #4: Designed to Care for One Another – Colossians 3:12-17

Active, heartfelt love guarantees harmonious living together with God's people (vs. 14)

Four actions guarantee we are truly loving God's people:

1. *Forbearing and forgiving as Christ has done for us (vs. 12)*
Compassion / Kindness / Humility / Meekness / Patience
2. *Pursuing peaceful living with one another (vs. 15)*
3. *Filling yourself with God's Word and speaking it to one another (vs. 16)*
4. *Revealing Jesus in everything you do (vs. 17)*

Week #5: Designed to Grow Together – Ephesians 4:11-16

God designed us to grow!

Equip / Building up / Attain / Mature / Measure of stature / Grow

How our growth plays out:

- 1. We are united around the truth of Jesus (vv. 11-13)*
- 2. We mature into the likeness of Jesus (vs. 13)*
- 3. We stand firm in the wisdom of Jesus (vs. 14)*

How God's design works:

- 1. The design works because of its connection to Christ (vs. 15)*
- 2. The design works because the whole body is in union (vs. 16)*
- 3. The design works because each individual keeps the body united (vs. 16)*
- 4. The design works because each individual aids in the body's growth (vs. 16)*

Week #6: Suffer and Comfort Together – 2 Corinthians 1:3-11

3 Foundational Truths

- 1. We anticipate suffering while in a relationship with God (vv. 3-5, 7)*
 - a. God is sovereign over all suffering (Isaiah 40:1)*
 - b. God is familiar with all suffering*
 - c. God is the source of all compassion*
 - d. God is sufficient for all comfort (Psalm 9:9-10)*
- 2. We act as conduits of comfort for God (vv. 4-7, 11)*
 - a. So that suffering and comfort become communally beneficial (2 Cor. 7:5-7)*
 - b. So that we might care for each other's hurts & carry one another's burdens (Gal. 6:2)*
 - c. So that we grow in willingness to share the fruit of both pain & comfort (1 Cor. 12:26)*
- 3. We anchor ourselves to the power and promises of God (vv. 8-11)*
 - a. God is our victory*
 - b. God is our deliverer (Psalm 34:18)*
 - c. God is our hope (Psalm 121:1-2)*

NOW WHAT? [Discussion & Reflection Questions]

- How have you been influenced by or benefitted from the VBC community?
- How have you been of influence or benefit to the VBC community?
- Which Scripture in the series so far **encourages** you the most? **Challenges** you the most?
- In what ways could the VBC faith family become more unified and effective in **caring for one another**?
- On VBC's Church Online webpage, press the tab entitled '[Spiritual Gifts List.](#)' Which gift(s) do you have and use? Ask others in your group to identify what they see as your gift(s).
- On VBC's Church Online webpage, press the tab entitled '[The One Anothers.](#)' Read through the list of 'One Anothers.' Consider which ones come easiest for you, which ones are most difficult for you, and which ones we need to display more in our church family.
- Read 2 Corinthians 2:12-13; 7:5-7, 13-15; 8:6. Ask God to show you how to be His 'Titus' today, in the coming week, and any time He may need you to be!

SONGS

"Found In You" - Paul Baloche & Andi Rozier

"Together In This" - Vallley Bible Worship (Dan Gillette, Shawn Hoelsch)

"What A Beautiful Name" - Ben Fielding, Brooke Ligertwood

"Give Me Faith" - Brian Johnson, Phil Wickham

BUDGET

GIVING LAST WEEK: \$37,986.00
WEEKLY NEED: \$34,979.00

YTD GIVING: \$1,429,296.00
YTD GENERAL NEED: \$1,469,118.00