

Sermon Outline

Together in Christ, Part 6: "A Community of One Yet Many"

1 Corinthians 12:12-27

Kevin Rogers, May 31, 2015

Main Idea: What does it look like to be a community shaped by the gospel and in ongoing fellowship with our triune God? It means being a community that is both *united as one in Christ*, and also *diverse as the body of Christ*. Today's sermon reminds us that by faith in Christ, God has made us one body and every part is needed.

Sermon Outline:

1. God has made us one diverse body (12:12-14)
2. God has made us one body and every part is needed, so we can't exclude ourselves (12:15-20)
3. God gives honor to every part of the body and so should we (12:21-26)

Key Quotes:

"Paul is saying that we can't exclude ourselves from the body because it's simply denying reality. It would be ridiculous for your ear to take a pass on being part of your body because it wasn't an eye. We are a part of the body whether we recognize it or not. The only question is whether we are playing the part God has called us to play." Kevin

"All members are necessary if there is to be a body and not a monstrosity." Gordon Fee

If we exclude ourselves because we don't think we are as important or impressive as someone else, or because we think the gifts we have aren't needed, we are denying the very work of God." Kevin

Fellowship Starters:

1. Read 1 Corinthians 12:12-27 together.
2. Share what sticks out to you in the passage. What encourages you about what Christ has done to unite each of you to himself and to one another? What encourages or challenges you about what that means for our lives as *one* body in which each of us has a *different part* to play?
3. Discuss the two tendencies that Kevin addressed that we can use to exclude ourselves from being more involved in the body—"they don't need *me*" and "I don't need *them*."
4. None of us has all of the spiritual gifts. But until the Lord calls us home, each of us is to continually be seeking the Spirit's direction and empowerment to be doing "good works, which God prepared beforehand" (Eph. 2:10). Discuss ways that each of you can be continually seeking the Lord's help and direction to use your gifts to serve one another.
5. Read John 17:20-23 and close in prayer asking God to be glorified in the church as we seek obedience to God's will for our lives.