

The Body of Christ **1 Corinthians 12:12-27**

To our dismay, spiritual gifts are not like superhero abilities that we each have for our own benefit; the “gift” is not merely an ability, but is the _____ Himself, manifesting Himself through each believer for the benefit of the other believers.

Discussion 1. Has anyone ever described for you what it looks like when the Spirit of God manifests itself through you (i.e., what your spiritual gift is)? Have you ever described that for anyone else? Why is this conversation important in the church?

The “Body of Christ” metaphor for Christ followers rejects the modern notion that our identity is found within ourselves. As members of the body of Christ, our core identity has changed and is now found outside ourselves, _____ and in Christian community.

Discussion 2. How would you have described your identity BEFORE becoming a Christ follower? How has that changed or shifted for you now? What are the practical effects of that change?

God is doing an important work in and through every believer. One of the functions of a _____ is to learn what that is in each of us and to capitalize on it for the benefit of the entire community.

Discussion 3. Have you seen ways in which a healthy church “sees” each person’s spiritual giftedness and puts it to work? Do you believe we all have a responsibility to help that happen in each other’s lives? How might that look?

The calling on Christ followers is that we find the right way to _____ and to _____ with all those believers with whom we are called to walk, even those with whom we disagree...maybe especially those with whom we disagree.

Discussion 4. “God has put the body together such that extra honor and care are given to those parts that have less dignity.” What does that look like in real life? Is that just the church staff’s responsibility or do we all share in that responsibility?

Discussion 5. How does this lesson cause you to pray? How does it prepare your heart for worship?