

## The Gift of Community

### **1 Corinthians 12:12-31**

12 Just as a body, though one, has many parts, but all its many parts form one body, so it is with Christ. 13 For we were all baptized by one Spirit so as to form one body—whether Jews or Gentiles, slave or free—and we were all given the one Spirit to drink. 14 Even so the body is not made up of one part but of many.

15 Now if the foot should say, “Because I am not a hand, I do not belong to the body,” it would not for that reason stop being part of the body. 16 And if the ear should say, “Because I am not an eye, I do not belong to the body,” it would not for that reason stop being part of the body. 17 If the whole body were an eye, where would the sense of hearing be? If the whole body were an ear, where would the sense of smell be? 18 But in fact God has placed the parts in the body, every one of them, just as he wanted them to be. 19 If they were all one part, where would the body be? 20 As it is, there are many parts, but one body.

21 The eye cannot say to the hand, “I don’t need you!” And the head cannot say to the feet, “I don’t need you!” 22 On the contrary, those parts of the body that seem to be weaker are indispensable, 23 and the parts that we think are less honorable we treat with special honor. And the parts that are unpresentable are treated with special modesty, 24 while our presentable parts need no special treatment. But God has put the body together, giving greater honor to the parts that lacked it, 25 so that there should be no division in the body, but that its parts should have equal concern for each other. 26 If one part suffers, every part suffers with it; if one part is honored, every part rejoices with it.

27 Now you are the body of Christ, and each one of you is a part of it. 28 And God has placed in the church first of all apostles, second prophets, third teachers, then miracles, then gifts of healing, of helping, of guidance, and of different kinds of tongues. 29 Are all apostles? Are all prophets? Are all teachers? Do all work miracles? 30 Do all have gifts of healing? Do all speak in tongues? Do all interpret? 31 Now eagerly desire the greater gifts. And yet I will show you the most excellent way.

L: The Word of God for the People of God.

### **P: Thanks be to God.**

- We are in a series called, “Opening Our Gifts.”
- Today’s sermon is entitled, “Gift of Community.”
- Paul says that the church is like a body.
  - It is made up of many parts.
  - All of the parts are different.
  - Each part is important.
- Each part of the body has a different function, and all the parts have to work together in order for the body to grow and thrive.
- All the parts of the the body should care about and for all of the other parts.
- We are all in this together. When one of us rejoices, we all rejoice; when one of us suffers, we all suffer.
- Paul says that there are even greater gifts, a more excellent way.
  - Last week we learn that the greatest gifts are faith, hope, and love; the greatest is love.

- Let's put it all together... God gives us the gifts of the Spirit, so that we can enjoy the gift of community, so that we can know the greatest gift, the gift of love.