



I. INTRO

A. From many - one

1 Corinthians 12:12-14 (NKJV) ¹² For as the body is one and has many members, but all the members of that one body, being many, are one body, so also is Christ. ¹³ For by one Spirit we were all baptized into one body—whether Jews or Greeks, whether slaves or free—and have all been made to drink into one Spirit. ¹⁴ For in fact the body is not one member but many.

- Every member matters
- One out of many or many into one

II. WE STAND ALONE, TOGETHER

1 Corinthians 12:27 (NKJV) ²⁷ Now you are the body of Christ, and members individually.

A. Alone

- Paul's analogy of the body –

As important as each individual body part is, we also realize that each part is simply one of many other parts working together.

B. Together

1 Corinthians 12:20 (NKJV) ²⁰ But now indeed *there are* many members, yet one body.

- It is “together” that “individuality” becomes wonderfully powerful. That is the beauty of the Body of Christ and of Joy Christian Center.

1 Corinthians 12:21 (NKJV) ²¹ And 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.”

- We are just one of many – but we are one

C. Alone, Together – We Stand

- Jesus said that without me you can do nothing

1 Corinthians 12:13-19 (MSG) The old labels we once used to identify ourselves—labels like Jew or Greek, slave or free—are no longer useful. We need something larger, more comprehensive. ¹⁴⁻¹⁸ I want you to think about how all this makes you more significant, not less. A body isn't just a single part blown up into something huge. It's all the different-but-similar parts arranged and functioning together. If Foot said, “I'm not elegant like Hand, embellished with rings; I guess I don't belong to this body,” would that make it so? If Ear said, “I'm not beautiful like Eye, limpid and expressive; I don't deserve a place on the head,” would you want



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to remove it from the body? If the body was all eye, how could it hear? If all ear, how could it smell? As it is, we see that God has carefully placed each part of the body right where he wanted it. ¹⁹⁻²⁴ But I also want you to think about how this keeps your significance from getting blown up into self-importance. For no matter how significant you are, it is only because of what you are a part of.

III. YOU ARE MORE IMPORTANT THAN YOU THINK

A. Our individual significance is found in what we are together

1 Peter 4:10-11 (NKJV) ¹⁰ As each one has received a gift, minister it to one another, as good stewards of the manifold grace of God. ¹¹ If anyone speaks, *let him speak* as the oracles of God. If anyone ministers, *let him do it* as with the ability which God supplies, that in all things God may be glorified through Jesus Christ, to whom belong the glory and the dominion forever and ever. Amen.