

INTRO: The church is continually called the Body of Christ and each member of the church is a different "member" of that body. Some are hands, other are mouths, some are spleens (whatever those do) and maybe a keister or two. The point is, though we might look different, have different strengths or abilities, have different likes and dislikes, we are one united body. Each of us has a part and role to play in the body of Christ.

1. What parts of the body of christ tend to get the most honor?

READ Romans 12:1-8

- 1. What connection is there between offering your body as a sacrifice and becoming part of the Body of Christ?
- 2. What does it mean that each member of the Body of Christ belongs to the others?
- 3. Are those the only gifts? What else would you list?

SERMON QUESTIONS:

- 1. What do you think God put you in our church community to do?
- 2. One interesting indicator of where you might be gifted is what you tend to criticize the most. What about church do you tend to be most critical of? Are you gifted there?
- 3. When you think of church, what gifts do you think of as absolutely essential?
- 4. The Body of Christ reminds us that EVERYONE is needed. What skills do you undervalue?
- 5. The Spirit is at work to gift and to unify. Why are both works essential?
- 6. When you look at our church, what unifies us?

OUTRO: People of different skills, backgrounds, and desires don't tend to build tight knit communities. Mostly, we draw close to people who are like us. The work of the Spirit in the church is to overcome that natural tendency and unite us through our diversity. The church is the place where diverse people draw together under one head who is Jesus and by the power of one Spirit. If we are united by the Son and the Spirit how can we let anything divide us.

PRAY TOGETHER.