



Now you are the body of Christ and individually members of it. – 1 Cor. 12:27

The church is not a collection of isolated believers. It is the body of Christ, where every member is connected, every member is needed, and every member is called to serve.

God's Design ... Saved for Purpose – 1 Cor. 12:12-27

- I. We Are Connected to ... (vs. 12-13)
Cp. Romans 12:4-5; Ephesians 4:4-6; Colossians 3:15
II. Every Member ... (vs. 14-20)
Cp. Romans 12:4-5; 1 Peter 4:10; Nehemiah 3 & 11; Neh. 11:19
III. Every Member is ... (vs.21-26)
Cp. Philippians 2:3-4; Galatians 6:2; Hebrews 10:24-25
IV. Every Member has a ... (vs.27)
Cp. Ephesians 4:11-12; 1 Peter 4:10; Romans 12:6-8

So What ...

Consumers _____ church; disciples _____ the church. Which describes you?

Every believer is given spiritual gifts to use for the benefit of others and for the glory of God. To not use those gifts would be to _____ your talents, _____ the church, and _____ God's purpose for your life.

Appointment with God – Prayer Focus

THE LORD'S TOP PRIORITY—RELATIONSHIPS!

Father God, You emphatically and repeatedly state that our relationships with YOU and with OTHERS are Your top priority. You also clearly state that all principles, laws, and commandments are facets of how our relationships are to be lived out. We demonstrate our love for You and for others by OBEYING Your precepts. Our actions are to be determined by Your truths, not our emotions.

[Deut. 6:5; Matt. 22:37-40; Mark 12:30-31; Luke 10:27; John 14:15, 23 for starters]

LORD, OPEN MY EYES AND WORK IN MY HEART. MAY I DEMONSTRATE LOVE.

Wherever there appears to be discord, may we give thanks that the discord is now in the open...not festering and growing inside of us. May we look at the discord as a prompt from You, Lord, to seek Your will in the relationship. May we base our decisions and actions on Your truths...not our emotions, not our own understanding. Open our eyes, our ears, and our hearts to receive You and love the way You love. May we be moldable in Your hands as clay is to the potter. Help me not to judge others, but to be their prayer warrior for You to move in their lives. May OUR top priority be You and Your will in relationships, just as it is YOUR top priority.

[Ps. 51:10; Jer. 18:1-17; Rom. 8:27; Col. 2:2; 1 Thess. 3:12; Matt. 7:1-5 for starters]

GOD, HELP US CHANGE INGRAINED AND DESTRUCTIVE THOUGHT PATTERNS!

Lord, I come to You in stillness and ready to listen. Reveal to me where I am closing my eyes, ears, and heart to You. Show me, Lord, where I grieve You. Light my path, Father, to where I must choose Your ways over my thoughts and emotions. May You be glorified in my relationships as You lead and guide me. You say you are in the midst of us wherever two or three are gathered. I pray that we constantly listen for You as we navigate through rough relationships.

[Matt. 6:33; Romans 14:13; John 13:34; Eph. 4:2-3; James 5:16; 1 John 5:16 for starters]

Father, I choose to write down all You speak to me about my relationships—where I need to repent, restore, validate. I am accountable to You to live out Your commands. Help me avoid justifying my actions. May You be glorified.

Four horizontal lines for writing.



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- I. We Are Connected to One Another (vs. 12-13)
Cp. Romans 12:4-5; Ephesians 4:4-6; Colossians 3:15
II. Every Member Matters (vs. 14-20)
Cp. Romans 12:4-5; 1 Peter 4:10; Nehemiah 3 & 11; Neh. 11:19
III. Every Member is Needed (vs.21-26)
Cp. Philippians 2:3-4; Galatians 6:2; Hebrews 10:24-25
IV. Every Member has a Ministry (vs.27)
Cp. Ephesians 4:11-12; 1 Peter 4:10; Romans 12:6-8

So What ...

Consumers attend church; disciples strengthen the church. Which describes you?

Every believer is given spiritual gifts to use for the benefit of others and for the glory of God. To not use those gifts would be to bury your talents, hinder the church, and neglect God's purpose for your life.

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