

Devotional Exercise

Skit:

Split students into groups of five. Have them choose five different body parts. For example: eyes, hands, mouth, ears, and feet. As a group, have them develop a skit that shows what would happen if four of them (body parts) decided that they didn't need the other. For example: the hands, mouth, ears, and feet decide they didn't need the eyes. The skit should show the chaos that would result from a missing body part and the rejoicing of the body as a whole when reunited with that same body part. Depending on time restraints, each member of the group can be kicked out and invited back in as a part of the body. Have each group act out their skit for the rest of the class.

Scripture:

1 Corinthians 12: 12 – 24 taken from The Message (MSG Bible)

You can easily enough see how this kind of thing works by looking no further than your own body. Your body has many parts—limbs, organs, cells—but no matter how many parts you can name, you're still one body. It's exactly the same with Christ. By means of his one Spirit, we all said good-bye to our partial and piecemeal lives. We each used to independently call our own shots, but then we entered into a large and integrated life in which he has the final say in everything. (This is what we proclaimed in word and action when we were baptized.) Each of us is now a part of his resurrection body, refreshed and sustained at one fountain—his Spirit—where we all come to drink. 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.



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 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.

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. An enormous eye or a gigantic hand wouldn't be a body, but a monster. What we have is one body with many parts, each its proper size and in its proper place. No part is important on its own. Can you imagine Eye telling Hand, "Get lost; I don't need you"? Or, Head telling Foot, "You're fired; your job has been phased out"? As a matter of fact, in practice it works the other way—the "lower" the part, the more basic, and therefore necessary...

Thought:

As with the body, we all need each other. God created us as social beings. That means that none of us could survive without social interactions. We need our family and friends; we need healthy relationships to live a happy and fulfilling life. As Christians, we are also a part of a church. Even though we are all individuals, we all live our own lives, and we all have our own experiences, we are still one body. We are a part of the body of Jesus Christ. We are his representatives here on earth and everything we do should be a reflection of him.



Sometimes we have issues as problems with our family members, with our friends, and even with the members of our church. However, as it says in 1 Corinthians 12, we still need each other. If we were to kick everyone out of our lives, how would that feel? Imagine living your entire life on a deserted island alone. No one to talk to, no one to help you, no personal interactions with another living human! You would most likely begin to go crazy. At the very least you will soon realize that those disagreements, arguments, and maybe even fights were insignificant. You would do anything to have the people in your life back.

Thus, we must be grateful for the people we have in our lives. To lose those we love and care about, or those who love and care about us, is a great tragedy. Just as the hands need the feet, we need each other. As the eyes need the ears, we need each other. As I need you, we need each other!

