

MESSAGE DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

AUG 29, 2021 // THE CHURCH IS LIKE ...

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Senior Pastor Marty Grubbs continued in our series Building a Life That Matters focusing on the importance of gathering in a church. This type of gathering or assembling was modeled in the first churches in the New Testament. Sometimes in homes, and other times in larger gathering areas, everyone focused on Jesus, the foundation of their faith. It was in these churches that Scripture was taught, worship was expressed, and the spiritual gifts each man and woman possessed were used to build the local church and the Church around the world. The church as designed by the earliest followers of Jesus created unity, set its firm foundation on awesome yet simple theology rooted in nothing less than the greatest miracles in the history of time. This is the mission of our church today. To be a place where you come to know Jesus, grow spiritually in community, and find your unique place to build the church.

SCRIPTURE

HEBREWS 10:19-25

¹⁹Therefore, brothers and sisters, since we have confidence to enter the Most Holy Place by the blood of Jesus, ²⁰by a new and living way opened for us through the curtain, that is, his body, ²¹and since we have a great priest over the house of God, ²²let us draw near to God with a sincere heart and with the full assurance that faith brings, having our hearts sprinkled to cleanse us from a guilty conscience and having our bodies washed with pure water. ²³Let us hold unswervingly to the hope we profess, for he who promised is faithful. ²⁴And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds, ²⁵not giving up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but encouraging one another—and all the more as you see the Day approaching.

1 CORINTHIANS 12

Now, dear brothers and sisters, regarding your question about the special abilities the Spirit gives us. I don't want you to misunderstand this. ²You know that when you were still pagans, you were led astray and swept along in worshiping speechless idols. ³So I want you to know that no one speaking by the Spirit of God will curse Jesus, and no one can say Jesus is Lord, except by the Holy Spirit.

⁴There are different kinds of spiritual gifts, but the same Spirit is the source of them all. ⁵There are different kinds of service, but we serve the same Lord. ⁶God works in different ways, but it is the same God who does the work in all of us.

⁷A spiritual gift is given to each of us so we can help each other. ⁸To one person the Spirit gives the ability to give wise advice; to another the same Spirit gives a message of special knowledge. ⁹The same Spirit gives great faith to another, and to someone else the one Spirit gives the gift of healing. ¹⁰He gives one person the power to perform miracles, and another the ability to prophesy. He gives someone else the ability to discern whether a message is from the Spirit of God or from another spirit. Still another person is given the ability to speak in unknown languages, while another is given the ability to interpret what is being said. ¹¹It is the one and only Spirit who distributes all these gifts. He alone decides which gift each person should have.

¹²The human body has many parts, but the many parts make up one whole body. So it is with the body of Christ. ¹³Some of us are Jews, some are Gentiles, some are slaves, and some are free. But we have all been baptized into one body by one Spirit, and we all share the same Spirit.

¹⁴ Yes, the body has many different parts, not just one part. ¹⁵ If the foot says, "I am not a part of the body because I am not a hand," that does not make it any less a part of the body. ¹⁶ And if the ear says, "I am not part of the body because I am not an eye," would that make it any less a part of the body? ¹⁷ If the whole body were an eye, how would you hear? Or if your whole body were an ear, how would you smell anything?

¹⁸ But our bodies have many parts, and God has put each part just where he wants it. ¹⁹ How strange a body would be if it had only one part! ²⁰ Yes, there are many parts, but only one body. ²¹ The eye can never say to the hand, "I don't need you." The head can't say to the feet, "I don't need you."

²² In fact, some parts of the body that seem weakest and least important are actually the most necessary. ²³ And the parts we regard as less honorable are those we clothe with the greatest care. So we carefully protect those parts that should not be seen, ²⁴ while the more honorable parts do not require this special care. So God has put the body together such that extra honor and care are given to those parts that have less dignity. ²⁵ This makes for harmony among the members, so that all the members care for each other. ²⁶ If one part suffers, all the parts suffer with it, and if one part is honored, all the parts are glad.

²⁷ All of you together are Christ's body, and each of you is a part of it. ²⁸ Here are some of the parts God has appointed for the church: first are apostles, second are prophets, third are teachers, then those who do miracles, those who have the gift of healing, those who can help others, those who have the gift of leadership, those who speak in unknown languages.

²⁹ Are we all apostles? Are we all prophets? Are we all teachers? Do we all have the power to do miracles? ³⁰ Do we all have the gift of healing? Do we all have the ability to speak in unknown languages? Do we all have the ability to interpret unknown languages? Of course not! ³¹ So you should earnestly desire the most helpful gifts.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. What stood out from Marty's message?
2. Read Hebrews 10:19-25. What do you learn about the purpose for gathering?
3. Read 1 Corinthians 12. Explain in your own words the analogy of the church being a body.
4. How would you explain the importance of each part of the body? Can you think of roles within the church that would be parts of the body that couldn't exist without others?
5. Where do you see the body working as described in this passage? What are the benefits when each person works within their giftedness?
6. How have you experienced or witnessed harm in the church? Would you like to tell your story? How have you experienced healing, or can we help you with that journey?

7. Have you discovered your spiritual gift(s)? You may ask your group members what gifts are apparent in you, and discuss ways you are, or can be, critical to the body of Christ.

8. How can we pray for you?

PRAYER

Ask the Holy Spirit to reveal your gifts and ways your uniqueness can edify and build the church. As God to spur you on to gathering together if you are out of the habit, have been spiritually wounded, or are grappling with centering your life on Jesus. Remember, if harm occurs in community healing is found in community.

**Some spiritual gifts you may have been given or that may be available to you:*

Administration

Apostleship / Pioneering

Discernment

Encouraging / Exhorting

Evangelism

Faith

Giving

Hospitality

Knowledge

Leadership

Pastor / Shepherding

Prophecy / Perceiving

Teaching

Serving / Ministry

Showing Mercy

Wisdom