

Community of Believers



Day 1:

Memory Verse: Colossians 2:6

So then, just as you received Christ Jesus as Lord, continue to live your lives in him.

We've been following Paul on his third missionary journey. Paul spent over two years in Ephesus, preaching the gospel. When some Jews began to say bad things about Paul's message, he left them and taught others at the hall of Tyrannus. Many people heard the gospel, and it spread throughout the whole area!

Paul left Ephesus to visit other churches, but he called for the church elders from Ephesus to come to him. He wanted to warn them about false teachers.

What kind of animal did Paul say these false teachers were like? **Wolves.**

Paul told the church leaders to beware of these wolves, false teachers who would twist God's words and try to lead people away from the truth.

We'll see this week that God wants all believers to work in unity so we can do what we should do as God's church

But there is an opposite of unity. Do you know what that is? Allow guesses. **Disunity.**

Disunity happens when we disagree. It can become a big problem when people take different sides, argue, and won't work together.

This was happening in the church of Corinth. Paul started this church on his second missionary journey. But later, when he heard that there was disunity there, he wrote a letter to the believers in Corinth. This letter is 1 Corinthians.

Let's find out what Paul wrote about this problem.

1 Corinthians 1:10-11

10 I appeal to you, brothers,[a] by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that all of you agree, and that there be no divisions among you, but that you be united in the same mind and the same judgment.

What did Paul want the believers to do, agree or disagree? [Agree.](#)

Paul wanted them to agree, which means they would have no what among them? [Divisions among them.](#)

Something was dividing them, making them take sides.

But how did Paul want them to be? What word here sounds like unity? [United.](#)

Paul wanted them to be united, to work together in unity.

So what was causing their disunity? Read verse 11.

11 For it has been reported to me by Chloe's people that there is quarreling among you, my brothers.

Paul heard that there was what among the brothers? [Quarreling.](#)

This was not good! The people in the church at Corinth were quarreling—arguing—about which teacher they wanted to follow.

They each wanted to follow the teacher they liked best! Some Corinthian believers said they followed Paul, who started their church. Others said they followed Apollos, who was a preacher, and some wanted to follow Peter, who had been with Jesus as one of his apostles. But Paul reminded them that Jesus is the only one they should be following because only Jesus died to save sinners.

In a church, like the one in Corinth, it can be hard for everyone to work together. Paul gave the Corinthians a word picture of a body to help them understand how believers should work as one to serve God.

Tomorrow we will see what Paul said about the body.

Day 2:

Memory Verse: Colossians 2:6

So then, just as you received Christ Jesus as Lord, continue to live your lives in him.

1 Corinthians 12:14-18

14 For the body does not consist of one member but of many. 15 If the foot should say, "Because I am not a hand, I do not belong to the body," that would not make it any less a part of the body. 16 And if the ear should say, "Because I am not an eye, I do not belong to the body," that would not make it any less a part of the body. 17 If the whole body were an eye, where would be the sense of hearing? If the whole body were an ear, where would be the sense of smell? 18 But as it is, God arranged the members in the body, each one of them, as he chose.

Does a body have only one member, or part, or does it have many? [A body has many parts.](#)

Our bodies have many parts, which do special jobs to keep our bodies going. Let's talk about our body real quick.

1. What does the body see with? Eyes.
2. What does the body hear with? Ears.
3. What does the body use to walk? Feet/legs.
4. What does the body use to touch and hold things? Hands/fingers.
5. What does the body use to smell with? Nose.
6. Are all these parts of the body important? Yes!

All these parts have different jobs, but they're all important members of the body.

Paul wrote verses 15–16 as if different body parts could talk.

15 If the foot should say, "Because I am not a hand, I do not belong to the body," that would not make it any less a part of the body. 16 And if the ear should say, "Because I am not an eye, I do not belong to the body," that would not make it any less a part of the body.

What did the foot say? [Because it wasn't a hand, it did not belong.](#)

And what did the ear say? [Because it wasn't an eye, it did not belong.](#)

Is that true? Just because the foot and the ear don't have the same jobs as the hand and the eye, does that mean they're not important? Allow discussion.



See this little drawing of a man? It looks like some parts of his body decided they don't belong! Oh no! He needs them all, doesn't he? This reminds me of the pictures we looked at earlier with something missing. Without all their parts, those things couldn't do what they were meant to do.

That's how it is in the church. Each believer is like a different part of the body of Christ, and we all need to do our part to keep the body strong.

But what if we all want to do the same jobs? Listen to what Paul said would happen if everyone tried to do the same thing. Read verses 17–18.

17 If the whole body were an eye, where would be the sense of hearing? If the whole body were an ear, where would be the sense of smell? 18 But as it is, God arranged the members in the body, each one of them, as he chose.

If everyone tried to be an eye, what did Paul say would be missing? The sense of what? [Hearing](#).

And if everyone wanted to be an ear, what would be missing? The sense of what? [Smell](#).

Imagine if all the body parts tried to be just like the eye, we'd end up with one big eyeball that couldn't hear, taste, or smell. That wouldn't work very well, would it?

Who's in charge of arranging the parts and putting all the members where he wants them in the body? [God](#).

God has given everyone a different job to do so that everything that needs to be done will get done. It's easy for us to look at other people and think, "I wish I could do that" or "I'd rather have her job than my job." But we need to remember that God has a special place for each believer. He has given each of us something we're good at, called talents and abilities, which we can use to help each other and spread the gospel.

Paul explained to the Corinthians that they were all a part of something bigger than themselves—they were members of the body of Christ. Each member must do his part for the body to work properly. Paul wanted the Corinthians to understand how the church ought to behave, as people working together in unity, helping each other rather than each person thinking only of himself.

This is important for us to remember, too. People today say that we should focus on ourselves and do what we think is best for us. But as Christians, we must remember that what we do affects the rest of the body—other believers in the church. We need to do our part to work in unity, thinking about what others need before we think of ourselves. That's how we can all glorify God together.