



I Corinthians 12:12-14, 27 New Revised Standard Version

¹² Just as a body, though one, has many parts, but all its many parts form one body, so it is with Christ. ¹³ For we were all baptized by one Spirit so as to form one body—whether Jews or Gentiles, slave or free—and we were all given the one Spirit to drink. ¹⁴ Even so the body is not made up of one part but of many.

²⁷ Now you are the body of Christ, and each one of you is a part of it.

Notes: _____



“This is the church. This is the steeple. Open the doors and see all the people.” Perhaps you have heard or maybe even repeated this simple rhyme. I recall it from my earliest memories of church and the many occasions on which my family would assemble with others on Sunday mornings and Wednesday evenings. Toss in a few additional special gatherings and it is fair to say that church has been “part and parcel” for much of my existence. My acceptance of God’s call into vocational ministry has certainly done much to solidify my relationship with the local church and, along with it, given me a better appreciation for what church is all about: people.

Some time ago, I read a statement which succinctly describes church: “Church isn’t a place you go to, but rather a family which you belong to.” Pure and simple, church *is* more than buildings, budgets, and board meetings. We are a people who embody the common values of the Kingdom of God, come together for the unified worship of God, make known the grace of God to humanity, and serve others in the spirit of the Risen Christ. The Apostle Paul understood this to be so and sought to redefine his Corinthian readers’ understanding of belonging to Christ and functioning as his people. The Corinthians had some misguided ideas concerning importance, spiritual gifts, and togetherness; ideas which in some places continue to define beliefs about church. To this, the Apostle Paul has spoken and continues to remind us today:

1. Church must never be limited to one person, place, or idea.
2. Church is to offer diverse gifts a space for unified purpose.
3. Church brings equal membership an equal responsibility.

Prayer Pebble: Lord, help me to see that church is about people; people who need you and each other.