



WE ARE PART OF ONE CHURCH



1 Corinthians 12

The apostle Paul wrote a letter to the church at Corinth. Years after Paul helped start the church in Corinth, the believers there were facing problems. One problem was that the church was divided. The people did not always get along or agree about what was most important. Paul wanted this to stop. “Is Christ divided?” Paul asked. Of course not. Jesus came to bring people together as one body—brothers and sisters in God’s family.

In his letter, Paul told about the importance of the church working together like one body. Paul wrote, “Think about the human body. It is one body, but it is made up of many parts. All the parts work together as one body.” Paul said that Jesus is like this. The Holy Spirit brings together many different people, but we are all one in Christ.

“The body is not one part but many,” Paul wrote. “A foot shouldn’t say, ‘I am not a hand, so I don’t belong to the body.’ A foot is just as much a part of the body as a hand. An ear shouldn’t say, ‘I am not an eye, so I don’t belong to the body.’ An ear is just as much a part of the body as an eye.

“Imagine if the whole body were an eye. How would it hear? Imagine if the whole body were an ear. How would it smell? God has arranged each part of the body just as He wanted. If they were all the same part, how would it be a body? A body is made up of many parts!

“In the same way, an eye can’t say to the hand, ‘I don’t need you!’ and the head can’t say to the feet, ‘I don’t need you!’ Even if a part is weaker than another, it is still an important part of the body.”

Paul said that the church—like the body—should be unified. The members should have the same concern for one another. “If one member suffers, all the members suffer with it; if one member is honored, all the members rejoice with it,” Paul wrote.

“We are the body of Christ, and individual members of it. God gives each member a specific purpose and different gifts. Some are apostles, some are prophets, some are teachers. Not everyone is the same, but every part of the body of Christ is important.”



Big Picture Question:

What is the church? The church is all Christians everywhere, who gather together in their communities to worship and serve God.



Christ Connection:

Paul told the believers in the Corinthian church to come together because of the gospel. He reminded them that Jesus saves sinners. Because of Jesus and what He has done, believers from every nation, tribe, people, and language can humbly come together as one body—the church.