

NL STUDY GUIDE

FIRE WITHIN

Part 2: Better Together

Pastor Troy Jones

August 29-30, 2015

1 CORINTHIANS 12:12

12 Just as a body, though one, has many parts, but all its many parts form one body, so it is with Christ.

1 CORINTHIANS 12:15-27

15 Now if the foot should say, "Because I am not a hand, I do not belong to the body," it would not for that reason stop being part of the body.

16 And if the ear should say, "Because I am not an eye, I do not belong to the body," it would not for that reason stop being part of the body.

17 If the whole body were an eye, where would the sense of hearing be? If the whole body were an ear, where would the sense of smell be?

18 But in fact God has placed the parts in the body, every one of them, just as he wanted them to be.

19 If they were all one part, where would the body be?

20 As it is, there are many parts, but one body.

21 The eye cannot say to the hand, "I don't need you!" And the head cannot say to the feet, "I don't need you!"

22 On the contrary, those parts of the body that seem to be weaker are indispensable,

23 and the parts that we think are less honorable we treat with special honor. And the parts that are unpresentable are treated with special modesty,

24 while our presentable parts need no special treatment. But God has put the body together, giving greater honor to the parts that lacked it,

25 so that there should be no division in the body, but that its parts should have equal concern for each other.

26 If one part suffers, every part suffers with it; if one part is honored, every part rejoices with it.

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

Use this guide for personal and family devotions and weekly groups.

SCRIPTURE

1 CORINTHIANS 12:15-27

Watch this weekend's messages online: nlchurch.com/watch.

OBSERVATION

HISTORICAL NOTE

You may have heard the term "body of Christ" once or twice at church. Jesus used the term "This is my body, broken for you," at the Last Supper, but what it really refers to is the metaphor that the Apostle Paul develops in his first letter to the Corinthian church. Paul frequently used the metaphor of the body to refer to the fellowship of believers, and you can find it in his letters to the Romans and Colossians.

The key to remember here is what Paul makes clear: every part of the body is vital to the health of the rest of the parts. There are no unnecessary parts—everything from spleen to eyebrow to elbow plays its role. In the same way, every believer shares in the health of the church. Nobody gets to sit on the sidelines, nobody should feel like they don't matter. We all have a part to play!

APPLICATION

What part is God calling you to play in the body? You may not be one of the most visible roles like worship leader or pastor, but what about a kid's small group leader, a parking lot attendant, or a greeter? What vital role are you created by God to play? Ask God to help you discover it—then jump in and be part of the team!

Remembering that God created me to be part of the body, I will encourage the rest of the body as they serve God. I will be a cheerleader for every role in the church, and I will pray for my fellow believers as they fulfill the role God created for them.

PRAYER

Use the space below to write out your prayer in response to today's message.

My take away today: _____

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