

## Abilities that the world values

How does the world show that it values certain abilities?

What abilities does the world highly value?

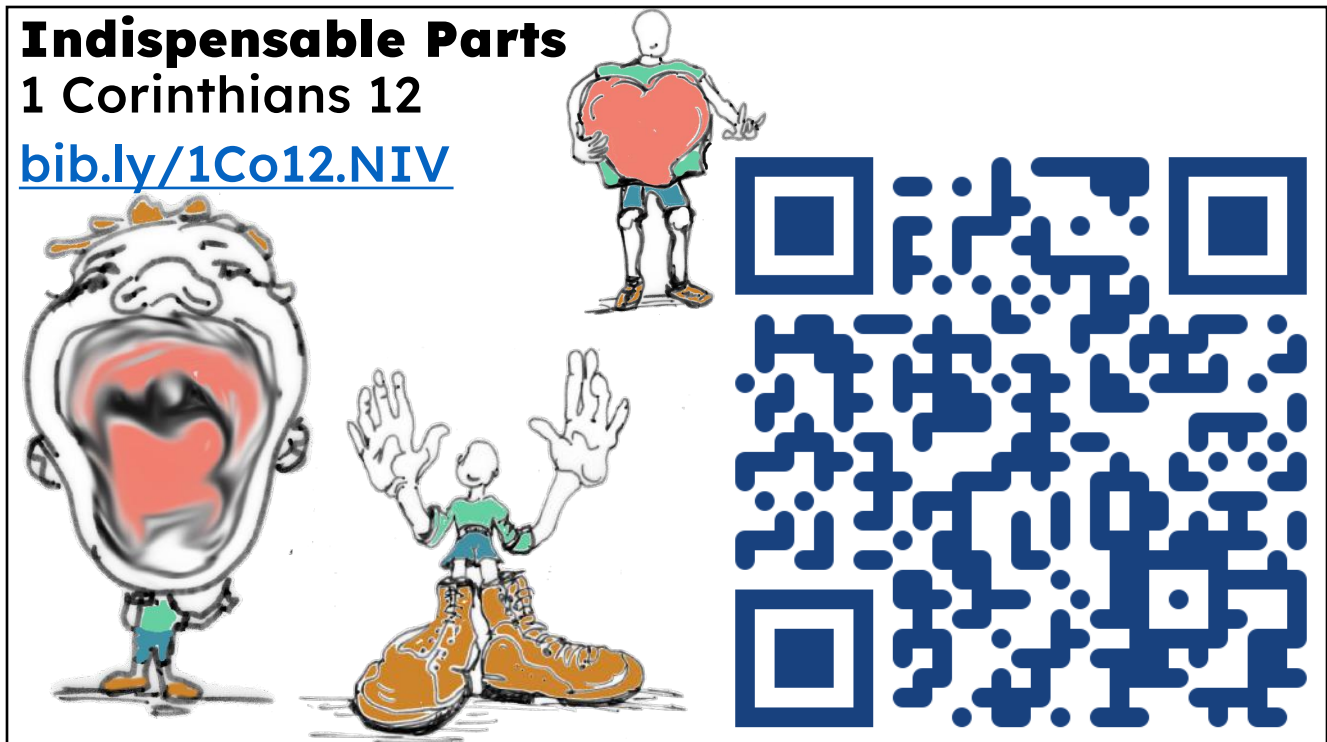
What abilities does God highly value?

1

### Indispensable Parts

1 Corinthians 12

[bib.ly/1Co12.NIV](http://bib.ly/1Co12.NIV)



2

## 1 Corinthians 12:1-11

God helps & blesses His people (the “Church”) by giving different individuals different abilities that they are to use for the common good

**But the Corinthian church didn’t really value all the different gifts God gave**

- They seemed to love public displays of power in speaking and miracles

3

## 1 Corinthians 12:12-14

<sup>12</sup> Just as a body, though one, has many **parts**, but all its many **parts** form one body, so it is with Christ. <sup>13</sup> 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. <sup>14</sup> **Even so** the body is not made up of one part but of **many**.

4

## 1 Corinthians 12:15-17

<sup>15</sup> 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. <sup>16</sup> 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. <sup>17</sup> 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?

5

## 1 Corinthians 12:15-20

<sup>18</sup> But in fact **God has placed the parts in the body, every one of them, just as he wanted them to be.** <sup>19</sup> If they were all one part, where would the body be? <sup>20</sup> As it is, there are many parts, but one body.

**Don't say: “I don't matter”**

6

## 1 Corinthians 12:21-24a

<sup>21</sup> 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!” <sup>22</sup> On the contrary, those parts of the body that seem to be weaker are indispensable, <sup>23</sup> 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, <sup>24</sup> while our presentable parts need no special treatment.

7

## 1 Corinthians 12:24b-26

**But God has put the body together,** giving greater honor to the parts that lacked it, <sup>25</sup> so that there should be no division in the body, but that its parts should have **equal concern** for each other. <sup>26</sup> If one part suffers, every part suffers with it; if one part is honored, every part rejoices with it.

**Don’t say: “You don’t matter”**

8

## 1 Corinthians 12:27-31

<sup>27</sup> Now you are the body of Christ, and **each one of you is a part of it.** <sup>28</sup> And God has placed in the church first of all apostles, second prophets, third teachers, then miracles, then gifts of healing, of helping, of guidance, and of different kinds of tongues. <sup>29</sup> Are all apostles? Are all prophets? Are all teachers? Do all work miracles? <sup>30</sup> Do all have gifts of healing? Do all speak in tongues? Do all interpret? <sup>31</sup> Now **eagerly desire the greater gifts.** And yet I will show you the most excellent way.

9

## The Big Idea

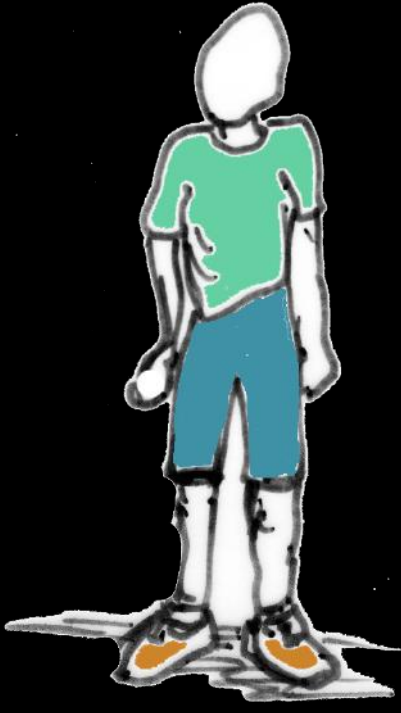
**God's people  
doing God's work**

God is the masterful and gracious  
architect and builder of His Church

so **every** person and **every** gift in Christ  
is vital for the good of the body

**An ability to serve  
and benefit people  
and the world**

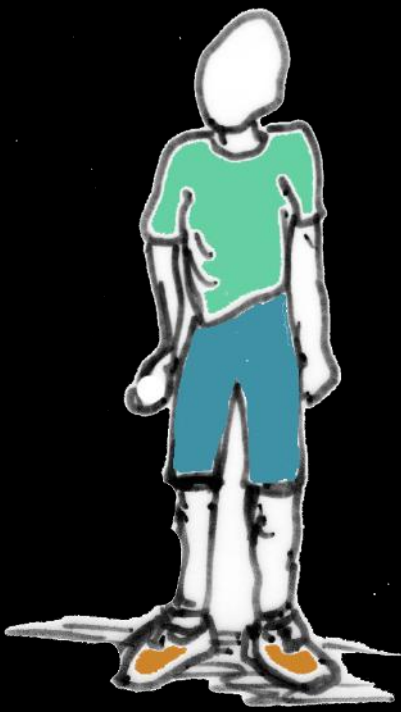
10



God made people with...  
hands and feet  
a heart and mind  
one mouth and two ears

Many different parts  
in good proportions  
that all matter

11



**The “body of Christ”  
(the church) should value all  
the parts of the body**

Many different parts  
with many different abilities  
and interests

12



Some people use lots of words!  
They think with words  
They care for people with words  
They do things with words

**Sometimes churches  
speak or act as though  
“word gifts” matter the most**

13



Some people take action  
They care for people with actions  
They get things done  
They may think by doing

**Sometimes churches  
speak or act as though  
“action gifts” matter the most**

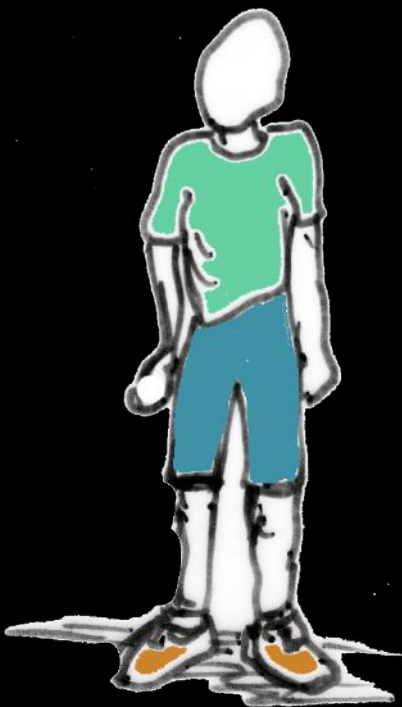
14



Some people are all heart  
They easily make & keep friends  
They are compassionate  
and passionate  
They care for people

**Sometimes churches  
speak or act as though  
“heart gifts” matter the most**

15



**The “body of Christ”  
(the church) should value all  
the parts of the body**

Many different parts  
with many different abilities  
and interests

**And the seemingly  
unimportant parts and gifts  
may be most important!**

16



## Space Shuttle

Take off weight:

- 4.5 million pounds
- 17,500 mph



17

## Challenger Disaster 1986

73 seconds into the flight

Killed 7 crew members

The cause?

- An unseen part
- It didn't help with power, guidance, communication, crew, life support, ...
- Quarter inch by 40 foot piece of rubber
- When it was overlooked, it destroyed everything



18



- Hitch Pin
- Costs \$4
- The essential piece to tow 21,000 pounds!

19

“Those parts of the body that seem to be weaker are indispensable, and the parts that we think are less honorable we treat with special honor.”

**If the church ignores them, the costs can be very great**



20

## The Big Idea

God is the masterful and gracious architect and builder of His Church so **every** person and **every** gift in Christ is vital for the good of the body

21

## “Gifts” God Gives

People **focused gifts**

Action **focused gifts**

Word **focused gifts**

Creativity / **Beauty focused gifts**

**Formally** educated or not

**Many & big gifts, or few & small gifts**

Vertical **gifts** (love and serve God)  
and Horizontal **gifts** (love and serve people)

**With** passion or **with practical** concern  
or **with** willingness

**Every gift is vital  
for the Church**

22

## The Big Idea

God is the masterful and gracious architect and builder of His Church so **every** person and **every** gift in Christ is vital for the good of the body

23

## Application

**Thank God for His design of you!**

- “God has placed the parts in the body, every one of them, just as he wanted them to be.”
  - For some of us, that is easy
  - For some of us, that is hard
- **Even if the world or the Church seems not to value you, God does!**
  - **And the Church needs you!**
  - **Crossway needs you!**

24

## Application

Thank God for His design of you!

**Value, develop, and grow in how God made you**

- Know that the Church needs you as God's gift
- Figure out your gift, and grow in it
  - Trust God's design
  - As an expression of love (1 Corinthians 13)
- It takes risks and effort
- Yet both you and others will experience God's grace through your gift
- A key value for our church is to help you grow and use your gifts

25

## Application

Thank God for His design of you!

Value, develop, and grow in how God made you

**Value and promote others' gifts**

- When they are like you
- When they are very unlike you
  - Praise God that the body has parts that are really different from you!
- Thank people for using God's gift in them
- A key value for the church!
  - If you've got the gift, God wants you to use it!
  - In love and humility

26

## The Big Idea

God is the masterful and gracious architect and builder of His Church so **every** person and **every** gift in Christ is vital for the good of the body

- What abilities does God highly value?
- Whatever gift or gifts **He gave you!**

27

“God has placed the parts in the body, every one of them, just as he wanted them to be.”

“Those parts of the body that seem to be weaker are indispensable, and the parts that we think are less honorable we treat with special honor.”

28