

Indispensable Parts

1 Corinthians 12



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 Corinthians 12

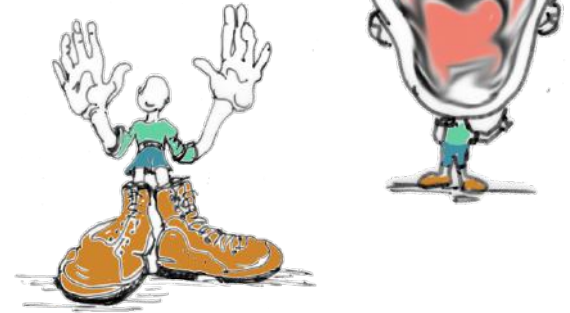
1-11

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

12-14: one body with many parts



15-20: Don’t say: “I don’t matter”

21-26: Don’t say: “You don’t matter”

27-31: Eagerly desire to bless the Church

The Big Idea

God is the masterful and gracious

architect and builder of His Church [God’s people doing God’s work]

so every person and every gift in Christ [an ability to serve and benefit people and the world]

is vital for the good of the body

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

The “body of Christ” (the church)...

should value all the parts of the body

Many different parts with many different abilities and interests

Words

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

Actions

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

Heart

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

Many different parts with many different abilities and interests

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

“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.”

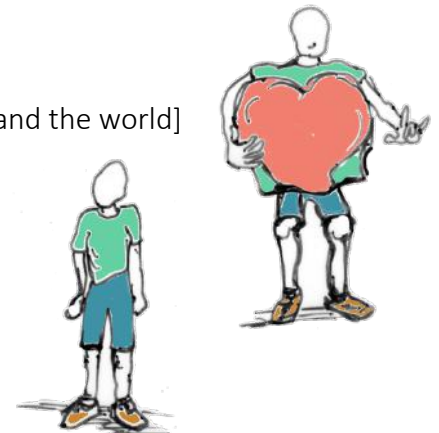
If the church ignores them, the costs can be very great

“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

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!

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

Value and promote others’ gifts

When they are like you and 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

What abilities does God highly value?

Whatever gift or gifts He gave you!

Reflection Questions for later today or this week...

1. Do you have a sense of the “gifts” God has given you? If so, what are they? Consider the different lists given in the Bible (see _) as well as in this sermon.
2. Does the world value the way God made you? Does the church?
3. In what ways is it easy to thank God for how He made you? In what ways is it hard?
4. What does it look like to value, develop, and grow in how God made you? What steps can you take?
5. What does it look like to value and promote how God has made other people, especially in the church? What steps can you take?

Conversation Starter

What abilities do you have that bring a blessing to other people?

Does it seem that people value what you have to give?