



THURSDAY 08.05.10

1 Corinthians 12:21-27

This metaphor of the body that the Apostle Paul uses for the church recognizes and honors differences. In verse 15-17 he speaks to people who have a low self-estimation of their gifts and their place. He seeks to assure them of their importance, even necessity, to the body. In verses 21-24 he speaks to those who have a low estimation of others. He reminds these people that every member is equally important to the well-being of the body.

- Do you feel connected to either of the groups Paul describes here? If so, what might be fueling those feelings?
- If we dwell on feeling less or more important than others in the church, how do those thoughts create division?



FRIDAY 08.06.10

Philippians 2:1-4

The huge redwood trees in California are the largest living things on earth, some 300 feet high and over 2,500 years old. Their roots are relatively shallow but powerfully intertwined. When storms come, the redwoods still stand because of the way they support and sustain each other. They need one another to survive. So do we! Through the Holy Spirit we are baptized into the body of Christ. The Spirit draws us to grow in fellowship with Christ and each other. This is our God-given support system.

- How intertwined would you say your spiritual roots are with others in the church? What could you do to strengthen and grow those roots?
- Paul tells us we should seek to have the attitude of Christ, one of unity, humility and self-sacrifice. How could growth in this attitude help us more deeply appreciate our place in the body?



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Scripture:

Things I'd like to remember from today's sermon:

Johnny Brower August 01, 2010

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Introduction

God has designed each of us with a need to find our place in the church, a place of purpose, significance and community. God has designed the church to be a place where each individual is valued as a part of the whole.

Sometimes we find ourselves experiencing the exact opposite of God’s design for us in our relationship with the church. Instead of feeling connected and in sync, we feel indifferent, insignificant and isolated. In this week’s GPS we will focus on readings that help us reflect on why we need to find our place and how we can develop actions and attitudes that help us grow in that place.

May this prayer guide us in the coming week:

God, I want to understand more clearly my place in this church. Help me grow more and more each day to appreciate your unique design for me and the people around me. May we find deep connections with one another that honor you and strengthen us as the body of Christ. Amen.



MONDAY 08.02.10

John 17:20-21

In this passage Jesus prays that we will come together as one, in the same way that he and the Father are one. Jesus wants us to experience the beauty and power of that relationship. He also has a hope placed in us that our commitment to community will serve as a sign to the rest of the world of our belief in Jesus as God’s son, sent to save us.

- How does it feel to know that Jesus prayed for you to find your place in the church and experience community?
- In what way has the experience of community helped grow your faith?



TUESDAY 08.03.10

Romans 15:5-7

In this passage the Apostle Paul tells us we can experience a spirit of unity and love when we keep our eyes on Jesus. Jesus loves all kinds of strange, unlovely and sinful people. If we only love people who think and act like us, then we only love ourselves. God is glorified and receives our praise when we accept one another with all our differences and keep Jesus at the center of our relationships.

- Why do you think God is glorified in such a powerful way when we are able to be in community with people who are different from us?
- The Apostle Paul begins this passage by reminding us that God gives us endurance and encouragement. Why do you think he especially mentions these two gifts as he discusses the challenge to live in unity and love?



WEDNESDAY 08.04.10

1 Corinthians 12:14-18

God has arranged a place for you that is unique, corresponding to your passion, spiritual gifts and personality, as well as the needs of the church. God knows just how and where you fit in because he wisely and lovingly designed you and arranged for you to fulfill his design in a way that pleases him, fulfills you and benefits every one of us.

- Have you ever been disappointed with your place in the church because someone else received more recognition or seemed to have a greater impact? What does the Apostle Paul point out concerning our design, our unique place and how they were planned?
- How does the knowledge that God arranged and planned a place for you make you feel about where you are right now?
