

# THE BODY OF CHRIST

## I WILL NOT BE A CHURCH DROPOUT

Today's Passage: 1 Corinthians 12:14-27

For the week of August 3rd

### MAIN POINT

We are to function as members of the body of Christ by serving in a way that pleases God before people.

### COMMUNITY QUESTIONS

*Use these questions to start discussion and learn more about others in your Life Group.*

**In what areas of your life do you tend to do too much?**

**In what areas of your life are you tempted to do too little?**

**How does doing too much affect your attitude over time? Who, besides you, does it affect when you do too little?**

In regards to the church, when we do too much, we risk problems such as ministry burnout and ministry atrophy. One author writes, "We are to avoid the extremes that lead to church dropout, either through legalistic over-commitment or intentional non-commitment." Paul helps us understand how to do this in his letters to the Ephesians and the Corinthians.

SCAN HERE FOR ADDITIONAL  
COMMENTARY ON TODAY'S LESSON



## GROW TOGETHER

**Read Ephesians 2:8-10 (ESV).**

**2:8** *"For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, 9 not a result of works, so that no one may boast. 10 For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them."*

**Verse 10 follows Paul's description of our salvation. What is one of the reasons God created you?**

**What is the connection between grace and works?**

**We risk burn out when our motivation to do works is for anyone but God. How does it make you feel to know that God has already prepared situations for you to do good works? How does this help you understand how to avoid ministry burnout? Ministry atrophy?**

**Are you more of a people pleaser or a God pleaser? How do you know?**

As much as we like to think we have the option of doing nothing when it comes to service, especially service in the church, this is simply not an option Scripture gives us. The good works we are to do are those that God has prepared. Those are the places we should 'walk.' We are to serve as God has showed us. We are to please Him. Our motive is to glorify Him, serve Him, and please Him. If we do that, we will serve gladly and never burn out.

**Read 1 Corinthians 12:14-20 (ESV).**

**12:14** *"For the body does not consist of one member but of many. 15 If the foot should say, "Because I am not a hand, I do not belong to the body," that would not make it any less a part of the body. 16 And if the ear should say, "Because I am not an eye, I do not belong to the body," that would not make it any less a part of the body. 17 If the whole body were an eye, where would be the sense of hearing? If the whole body were an ear, where would be the sense of smell? 18 But as it is, God arranged the members in the body, each one of them, as he chose. 19 If all were a single member, where would the body be? 20 As it is, there are many parts, yet one body."*

**Why do you think Paul chose the "body" imagery to describe the church? Do you think this is an effective metaphor? Why or why not?**

**It's easy to identify how different parts of the body function differently. What are some unique and different gifts you have recognized in our group or in our church body as a whole?**

**What in this passage further explains the truth that to function as a member of the body of Christ, we must seek to please God before people?**

**How can these different functions in a church create unity?**

Paul's metaphor for the church body is effective, as it gives a clear and relatable picture. Having all legs or all ears would make a body virtually useless. The gifts that God gives believers are meant to be unifying because, altogether, the gifts make up a complete unit. We are exhorted to know our gifts so we can use them to serve the church.

**Read 1 Corinthians 12:21-27 (ESV).**

**12:21** *"The eye cannot say to the hand, "I have no need of you," nor again the head to the feet, "I have no need of you."* **22** *On the contrary, the parts of the body that seem to be weaker are indispensable, 23 and on those parts of the body that we think less honorable we bestow the greater honor, and our unpresentable parts are treated with greater modesty, 24 which our more presentable parts do not require. But God has so composed the body, giving greater honor to the part that lacked it, 25 that there may be no division in the body, but that the members may have the same care for one another. 26 If one member suffers, all suffer together; if one member is honored, all rejoice together.*

**27** *Now you are the body of Christ and individually members of it."*

**Why do you think we are tempted to compare our gifts or roles to those of others in the church? Why do we consider some roles to be "weaker" or "less honorable"?**

**How do these verses explain this statement: "An inactive church member is an oxymoron. A church dropout is a disobedient Christian"?**

## **MAKE AN IMPACT**

*Discover how you can apply today's lesson to your life so you can impact the world.*

**What have your observations told you about the reason church members drop out of the church?**

**Considering what you know about your gifts and the works God has prepared in advance for you to do, are there any roles you feel you could do a better job of fulfilling as a part of our body?**