

1 Cor 12:4-12

4 Now there are diversities of gifts, but the same Spirit.

5 And there are differences of administrations, but the same Lord.

6 And there are diversities of operations, but it is the same God which worketh all in all.

7 But the manifestation of the Spirit is given to every man to profit withal.

8 For to one is given by the Spirit the word of wisdom; to another the word of knowledge by the same Spirit;

9 To another faith by the same Spirit; to another the gifts of healing by the same Spirit;

10 To another the working of miracles; to another prophecy; to another discerning of spirits; to another divers kinds of tongues; to another the interpretation of tongues:

11 But all these worketh that one and the selfsame Spirit, dividing to every man severally as he will.

12 For as the body is one, and hath many members, and all the members of that one body, being many, are one body: so also is Christ.

13 For by one Spirit are we all baptized into one body, whether we be Jews or Gentiles, whether we be bond or free; and have been all made to drink into one Spirit.

14 For the body is not one member, but many.

15 If the foot shall say, Because I am not the hand, I am not of the body; is it therefore not of the body?

16 And if the ear shall say, Because I am not the eye, I am not of the body; is it therefore not of the body?

17 If the whole body were an eye, where were the hearing? If the whole were hearing, where were the smelling?

18 But now hath God set the members every one of them in the body, as it hath pleased him.

KJV

To be a member of a local church should mean so much more to you than having your name on the role and attending the church meetings. If this is all that it means to you, you will find it easy to migrate from one local church to another when there is conflict or when you feel like your own personal needs are not being met.

The local church is like the human body according to the Apostle Paul.

The Lord builds a local church body to show forth His love to the world.

The local church is made up of body parts that the Lord brings together by His Spirit.

To be called to be a member of a local church means that God has a vital role for you to play in the in the ministry of love to and through your local church body.

In some ways our service to our local church is the same.

- We give
- We pray
- We comfort
- We rejoice

In other ways, our service to the body is as distinct as the service that one of your bodily members provides for your well being.

[Each one of us is like a part of the human body designed to serve our local church body!](#)

Paul compared each one of us to a foot, a hand, an ear, an eye, the nose, or the head.

Now all of these parts of the body are vital to the service of the body. Some parts may appear to be least important but with regards to certain acts of service they are the most necessary.

When Kathi Toliver fell last Sunday, of those who served her, who was unnecessary or the least important?

There was Dr. Dellinger who examined her and began to diagnose Kathi's condition.

There was Paul Boone who called for prayer and led you in singing while people were attending to Kathi.

There was Brandon Werner who called for the ambulance.

There was Paul Boone and David Qualls who drove Kathi's car to her house.

There was Sue Boone and Linda Qualls who sat with Kathi in the emergency room and then transported her home.

There were those of you that told Kathi that you loved her as she was being transported out of the auditorium.

Some of the parts of the body that served Kathi last Sunday were very visible. Other parts that served her were not as visible just like certain parts of our body.

Now of these that served her, who was unnecessary? Who was least important?

To be called to be a member of a local church means that God has a vital role for you to play in the in the ministry of love to and through your local church body.

The challenge I want to give you today is...

["Find and fulfill your role in the body!"](#)

Don't be just a consumer. If that is what you are, you will soon be migrating to another local church that you believe will better meet your needs.

Give, pray, comfort, and rejoice. But also find and fulfill every unique role God has for you to and through your service of love in the body.

This week our nation has a memorial that reminds us to be thankful to God for His blessings to our nation.

This morning, I want us to express our thanksgiving to God for our local church body. Because so many of you have fulfilled your role to the body, others have been blessed.

We have has asked several of our members to share a reason why they are thankful for their church body. In between these testimonies, we will sing together and give thanks to God because He is the one who has blessed us with the members that have served us.