

A Well-Functioning Body
1 Corinthians 12:12-24

Three types of people that make up most churches: those who use their church primarily for _____ with like-minded, morally similar people, those who want church to provide _____ that will help them cope with life, and those who recognize that church is to be the _____ of Christ. This 3rd group's view has most in common with the view of _____ and the authors of the New Testament. _____ stressed that the church was the very body—the active presence—of Christ in the world.

At Corinth, some believers were being overly _____ and given privilege in the church because they seemed to possess greater skill, ability, and giftedness, and others were being _____ and treated with contempt because they were less gifted.

Paul uses the analogy of a body to help explain Christ's design for His church. A physical body has many parts, some seeming _____ significant and some _____, but for the _____ for the body, all the parts need to be in their place doing their part. Even small, rarely celebrated, sometimes duplicated parts are important.

We rarely dismiss as unimportant a part of our body. Yet we dismiss and diminish the value of _____ in churches all the time...people who are different, less talented, maybe a little slow, even to the point of _____.

Maybe the greatest challenge churches face is us undervaluing _____—our _____ importance in God's plan and purpose for the church. Most churches are _____ by half the body or more who have _____ from any meaningful role but attending because they think they are useless.

Maybe the most important verse is verse _____. Whatever you do, don't diminish or dismiss _____ in the body of Christ. _____ put you here, just where He wanted you to be.