

I Corinthians

(28) Rightly Valuing the Gifts of Grace

1 Cor 12:14-31

14 Now the body is not made up of one part but of many. 15 If the foot should say, "Because I am not a hand, I do not belong to the body," it would not for that reason cease to be part of the body. 16 And if the ear should say, "Because I am not an eye, I do not belong to the body," it would not for that reason cease to be part of the body. 17 If the whole body were an eye, where would the sense of hearing be? If the whole body were an ear, where would the sense of smell be? 18 But in fact God has arranged the parts in the body, every one of them, just as he wanted them to be. 19 If they were all one part, where would the body be? 20 As it is, there are many parts, but one body.

21 The eye cannot say to the hand, "I don't need you!" And the head cannot say to the feet, "I don't need you!" 22 On the contrary, those parts of the body that seem to be weaker are indispensable, 23 and the parts that we think are less honorable we treat with special honor. And the parts that are unpresentable are treated with special modesty, 24 while our presentable parts need no special treatment. But God has combined the members of the body and has given greater honor to the parts that lacked it, 25 so that there should be no division in the body, but that its parts should have equal concern for each other. 26 If one part suffers, every part suffers with it; if one part is honored, every part rejoices with it.

27 Now you are the body of Christ, and each one of you is a part of it. 28 And in the church God has appointed first of all apostles, second prophets, third teachers, then workers of miracles, also those having gifts of healing, those able to help others, those with gifts of administration, and those speaking in different kinds of tongues. 29 Are all apostles? Are all prophets? Are all teachers? Do all work miracles? 30 Do all have gifts of healing? Do all speak in tongues? Do all interpret? 31 But eagerly desire the greater gifts.

And now I will show you the most excellent way. NIV

Demeaning *your* personal gifts of grace...12:14-20

In the Body object lesson, what is the 'foot' and 'ear' lamenting? 12:14-16 Comment??

Does this happen with believers inside the Body of Christ? 12:15, 16 (refusal to serve...)

What is Paul's *first* answer to the foot and the ear? 12:15b, 12:16b; 12:18; **Rom.12:3-8**

What is Paul's *second* answer to these members of the body? 12:17; **Phil.2:3-11**

Demeaning *other's* personal gifts of grace...12:21-26

What is the next issue with believers in the Body of Christ? 12:21; and today?? **Phil.2:3-4**

And what is Paul's response here? 12:22-23; **Eccl.9:14-18**

How has God designed our bodies? 12:24-25; **1:10-12, 3:3; Jn.17:21-23; IICor.13:11**

How does this perfect design work? 12:26; **Rom.12:15; Gal.6:2; Heb.13:3; IPet.3:8**

Now Paul moves from the object lesson (our bodies) to...? 12:27; **Rom.12:5; Eph.5:28-30**

So what is the obvious application of this passage? See **Rom.12:3-13**

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Demeaning your personal gifts of grace...12:14-20

In the Body object lesson, what is the 'foot' and 'ear' lamenting? 12:14-16 Comment??

Each is dissatisfied with their position in the Body! Want to 'move up'. Can't change it!

Does this happen with believers inside the Body of Christ? 12:15, 16 (refusal to serve...)

Yes, all too often. Envy and pride enter in and the desire to be more 'important' comes.

What is Paul's *first* answer to the foot and the ear? 12:15b, 12:16b; 12:18; **Rom.12:3-8**

They (foot/ear) have no right or authority to simply declare they're not what they are!!

What is Paul's *second* answer to these members of the body? 12:17; **Phil.2:3-11**

The body needs more than eyes. More than ears. It needs both, alive and functioning.

Demeaning other's personal gifts of grace...12:21-26

What is the next issue with believers in the Body of Christ? 12:21; and today?? **Phil.2:3-4**

One part of the body demeaning other parts, exalting itself! –Yes, again, all too often!

And what is Paul's response here? 12:22-23; **Eccl.9:14-18**

On the contrary. The seemingly weaker/less honorable/presentable are indispensable!

How has God designed our bodies? 12:24-25; **1:10-12, 3:3; Jn.17:21-23; II Cor.13:11**

He designed us for no division by the parts, equal concern for each other. Perfect!

How does this perfect design work? 12:26; **Rom.12:15; Gal.6:2; Heb.13:3; IPet.3:8**

Every individual part impacts the whole body, either good or bad. So it is in Christ.

Now Paul moves from the object lesson (our bodies) to...? 12:27; **Rom.12:5; Eph.5:28-30**

You (Corinthians, and us, believers) are the Body of Christ, each one a part of it.

So what is the obvious application of this passage? See **Rom.12:3-13**

As believers we should rejoice in our gifts as well as those of others. For His Glory!!