

Body by God

Discovering Principles from 1 & 2 Corinthians about Building Up Christ's Body

Comfortable in Your Skin

Introduction to 1 Corinthians 11-12

The 5 Purposes of the Purpose Driven Life

- **Worship**—You were planned for God's pleasure
- **Fellowship**—You were formed for God's family
- **Discipleship**—You were created to become like Christ
- **Ministry**—You were shaped for serving God
- **Evangelism**—You were made for a mission

The phrase, "comfortable in your own skin" refers to being at ease with the person God created you to be—your unique gifts, gender, personality, background, etc. When we have this attitude about ourselves we can properly relate to others, and Paul dealt with three issues in 1 Corinthians 11-12 that illustrate this. He first addressed the roles of men and women, a very controversial subject in that day. Roman culture tried to ignore the differences between men and women, to encourage feminism, and to promote male chauvinism. These attitudes had infiltrated the church, so Paul wanted the Corinthians to show they were "comfortable in their skin" by affirming God's order in the church. He instructed women to accept

their God-ordained role in the body, and instructed men to eliminate their attitude of superiority towards them. Just as Christ, although subject to the Father, is equal to Him, so in God's created order, while wives are to be subject to their husbands, they are certainly equal to them; the church is to reflect this order without contention. Paul then dealt with abusive practices during the Lord's Supper. Those with plenty, by preparing lavish spreads to eat during communion, blatantly disregarded the needs of the poor in their fellowship who went hungry. Such elitism was unacceptable, and Paul called on those who acted this way to affirm the need of those less fortunate by



Following God's principles will develop a church body that can glorify Him fully

stopping this practice. Finally, some wanted to claim superiority in their spiritual gifting, and thus would not affirm their need for others' contributions in the body. But the affirmation of our unique roles in the body, of our equal status, and of the unique contributions of all, allows us to show that we are "comfortable in our own skin".

Study/Discussion Questions for 1 Corinthians 11-12

(For answers to questions attend an ABF or go to www.celebrationnet.com/resources/leader resources)

1. Read 11:1-2. What did Paul ask the Corinthians to do (v1), and how could he make such bold statement (v1)? Similarly, what did he praise them for (v2), and why was this okay (v2)? How could we practice this today?

2. From 11:3-15 what divine order does Paul point out (v3)? Why does this have nothing to do with superiority? What practices did Paul instruct (v4-7), and why (v7, 8-9, 10, 13-15)?

3. In 11:11-16 what 2 truths are revealed (v11), but what is the ultimate truth (v12)? Regarding head-coverings, what was Paul's attitude about his teaching (v16)? How can we apply this?

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I Corinthians 11-12 Study Questions (cont)

4. According to 11:17-22 what was the result when the church gathered for the Lord's supper (v18, 20-21), and what was Paul's response (v17, 22)? What was wrong with them (v19, 22)?

5. From 11:23-28 what instructions did Paul give about the Lord's supper (v24-25), and what was their source (v23)? What is the purpose of the Lord's supper (v24-26), and how should we partake of it (v27-28)?

6. Based on 11:29-34 what might be the consequences of improperly partaking of the Lord's supper (v29-30, 32), and why (v32)? What attitude should we have in this towards each other, and towards the food (v33-34)?

7. Using 12:1-3 what proves that a person is not led by the Spirit (v3), and what proves that they are (v3)? What does this really mean?

8. In 12:4-11 what differences are pointed out (v4-6, 7-11), and what commonalities are pointed out (v4-6, 7)? What is the purpose of spiritual gifts (v7)?

9. Looking at 12:12-20 what common event makes us all important in the body (13), and what makes our role in the church important (15-17, 18)?

10. From 12:21-31 how has God insured that we understand each person's importance in the body (v21-24), and why does He want that (v25)? How should that make us respond to each other (v25-26, 28-31)?

11. Thinking back on 11-12, how can we affirm our roles in the body, affirm the needs of others in the body, and affirm the contributions of each person? How does being secure with our identity in Christ help us be able to do that?

"But now God has placed the members, each one of them, in the body, just as He desired."

1 Corinthians 12:18

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Life Group Questions

(Using questions based on today's message, Life Groups meet in homes to build supportive relationships with others at Celebration Fellowship)

1. Share with the group the most embarrassing thing that ever happened to you in a large gathering. Why are those unspoken rules so important to some people?
2. Think about someone you know who has an unforgiving attitude. How does this affect your impression of them as a Christian and why? Does everyone feel this way about people like that?
3. How do you deal with the issue of getting close to someone without getting hurt?
4. Discuss why there is such a direct connection between broken relationships with those around us and our relationship with God.
5. Talk about which of the guidelines for resolution are most difficult for you—going in grace, not power; clearly stating your purpose; or resolving to forgive.
6. Discuss anything else that impressed you from this week's message if you have time.