

Every Part Growing Together

Week 6 | Romans 12:3–8; 1 Corinthians 12:12–27; Ephesians 4:1–16 | October 18, 2026

Use this study on your own or with a group. Individuals: write and reflect on the questions. Groups: discuss them together, allowing time for personal reflection.

Begin with prayer.

As you work through the four questions below, ask: What in the passages supports your answers?

Read and notice

Read Romans 12:3–8. Circle “grace,” “one,” and “members.” Read 1 Corinthians 12:12–27. Mark each place Paul says “belong,” “need,” “necessary,” or “care.” Then read Ephesians 4:1–16 twice. Underline what Christ gives and what the whole body does. What do you notice?

1. Who is God?

What does Ephesians 4:4–10 show you about the Spirit, the Lord Jesus, and the Father? What does each one do? What do Christ’s victory and his gifts tell you about the kind of Lord he is?

2. What has God done?

According to Ephesians 4:1–7, what unity has God already given his people? List the seven “ones.” How does verse 7 show that unity does not mean everyone is the same?

Trace Ephesians 4:11–16 carefully. What has Christ given his church? Who is equipped, who does the work of ministry, and what is the whole body growing toward?

3. What do the passages say about who we are?

In Romans 12:3–8, what keeps someone from thinking too highly of themselves? What keeps someone from deciding they have nothing to offer? What does it mean that we are “members of one another”?

In 1 Corinthians 12:12–27, what would Paul say to someone who thinks, “I do not belong”? What would he say to someone who thinks, “I have no need of you”? Why are the members who seem weaker indispensable?

Put the passages side by side. What do “each,” “all,” and “every part” say about who receives grace, who ministers, and how the church grows?

4. So what?

Write three names: Who helps you grow in Christ? Whom are you helping grow? Who walks beside you? There may be multiple people in each place; choose the first name that comes to mind.

Some scenarios: a child noticing someone being left out; a student naming a pressure adults missed; a young adult teaching a skill; an adult admitting a wrong; an older adult needing help and still having wisdom to offer; a homebound member praying faithfully for others.

Which examples sound like people you know? What would you add? Where might you need to receive grace rather than hide your need? Where might Christ be inviting you to offer grace?

Picture this individually: A year from now, other Christians know you well enough to name your gifts, challenge your blind spots, and help you take a faithful step into ministry. You are doing the same for someone else.

What could help that future begin today?

Picture this at home: Your home—or a table where you are welcomed—is a place where children, students, and adults strengthen one another's gifts and prepare to serve beyond the room.

What simple rhythm could help that begin now?

Picture this together as a church: First Pres offers clear, ordinary ways for people to discover and use their gifts. Young adults receive real responsibility. Older and homebound members know their wisdom, care, prayers, and presence matter. Pastors and leaders equip the whole body for ministry.

What needs to be opened or made easier to enter so every part can take part?

After studying the passages today, what might be your next faithful step in response?

This week: Read Ephesians 4:1–16 each morning. Notice one word—calling, unity, grace, equip, maturity, truth, or love—and let it shape one relationship.

For further study, read Ephesians 2:11–22; 4:17–5:2; Romans 12:9–21; and 1 Corinthians 12:28–13:13.

Connecting to Sunday

The series began with what God gives us in Christ. Who We Are grows from Who I Am.

Look back

You are called and beloved. Saved by grace, not achievement. United to Christ. Being made like the Son. Why can this truth, this identity in Christ, not remain private?

Follow the passages

Romans says we belong to one another. First Corinthians says we need one another. Ephesians says Christ grows the body through every part. How do you see that playing out in our church today?

Make the turn

Where might Christ use another person in your growth as a disciple—and use you in the same way?

Finish this sentence:

The Spirit is growing _____ in me today. I can offer that fruit to the body of Christ by _____.

Closing Prayer

Lord Jesus Christ, thank you for joining us to yourself and to your people. Free us from believing we do not belong or that we do not need others. Equip every part of your body. Teach us to receive and offer your grace, to live the truth in love, and to grow together into your fullness. Amen.