WHEN WE GATHER TOGETHER: DO THE WORD

1 Corinthians 12.12-31

[12] For just as the body is one and has many members, and all the members of the body, though many, are one body, so it is with Christ....[25] that there may be no division in the body, but that the members may have the same care for one another. [26] If one member suffers, all suffer together; if one member is honored, all rejoice together.

Understanding True Fellowship

David Mathis writes in *Habits of Grace*, "True fellowship is less like friends gathered together to watch the Super Bowl and more like the players on the field in blood, sweat, and tears huddled together in the backfield only in preparation for the next down."

The Mechanics of the Body

Paul writes to the church in Corinth to correct their tendency to rank one another and create divisions. He uses the body analogy to show that every member is essential. However, he identifies two specific attitudes that work against this unity:

- **Comparison/Insecurity (vv.14-20):** When we feel insignificant, we pull away, saying, "Because I am not a hand, I do not belong." This is a denial of God's design. You and your gifts are not a mistake. You do not have to become somebody else to have a place in this body.
- **Pride (v.21):** When we feel self-sufficient, we push others away, saying, "I have no need of you." Both attitudes are destructive. The goal is a body where there is no division, where we rejoice when others succeed and suffer when others hurt (v.26).

Three Myths That Keep Us from the Body

1. The lone wolf mentality
2. The spectator trap
3. The myth of comfort

A consumer asks...	A member asks...
What's happening this Sunday?	How can I participate in the life of the church?
Am I getting anything out of this?	How can I help others grow in Christ?
Why hasn't anyone contacted me?	Who might need me to reach out?
Is there a ministry for me?	Where can I use my gifts to serve?
What does the church offer?	How can I contribute to our shared mission?
Who is responsible for this?	Is there a way I can help?

Key Idea: God has made us one body in Christ, so we belong to one another and use our different gifts to care for one another for the glory of God.

Application Questions:

Why is it often hard to admit that we need other people? What fears keep you from being truly known?

If someone looked at your calendar from the last two weeks, what would they say you value most? Does it align with the call to serve?

Have you ever felt your gifts were "less than" someone else's? How does knowing God placed you here on purpose change that?

What is one small, faithful step you can take this week to meet a need in our church?

Scan QR Code to find ways to serve