

## Recognising The Body 1 Cor 12:12-31

Sometimes churches can behave as if they have some kind of Parkinson's. Everybody's doing their own thing, convinced that what's good for them is what's good for the church.

### Recognising the unity in diversity (12-16)

<sup>12</sup> *The body is a unit, though it is made up of many parts; and though all its parts are many, they form one body. So it is with Christ.* <sup>13</sup> *For we were all baptized by one Spirit into one body—whether Jews or Greeks, slave or free—and we were all given the one Spirit to drink.*

The overarching social categories of society are no longer relevant in the church.

<sup>14</sup> *Now the body is not made up of one part but of many.* <sup>15</sup> *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...*

There is no-one who doesn't belong.

### Recognising the diversity in unity (17-20)

There is a difference between unity and uniformity. We need to recognise, and celebrate, the diversity that comes together to make our unity.

<sup>17</sup> *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?* <sup>18</sup> *But in fact God has arranged the parts in the body, every one of them, just as he wanted them to be.* <sup>19</sup> *If they were all one part, where would the body be?* <sup>20</sup> *As it is, there are many parts, but one body.*

## Recognising that we need each other (21-31)

### We need each other's weaknesses (21-26)

<sup>22</sup> *On the contrary, those parts of the body that seem to be weaker are indispensable... <sup>25</sup> so that there should be no division in the body, but that its parts should have equal concern for each other. <sup>26</sup> If one part suffers, every part suffers with it; if one part is honored, every part rejoices with it.*

The church needs to be a place where it's OK to be struggling.

### We need each other's gifts (27-31)

<sup>27</sup> *Now you are the body of Christ, and each one of you is a part of it. ... <sup>29</sup> Are all apostles? Are all prophets?...*

The answer is "no" in every case.

Each member of the body is important, because God has so designed his church that we all need each other's gifts.

### Take aways

1. Although we're all different, each one of us has a place in the body of Christ, the church.
2. None of us is more important than anyone else.
3. Each one of us has gifts that we bring to the body.