

Sermon Discussion Guide

Serving One Another

1 Corinthians 12:4-27

You have been placed in the body of Christ (4-14)

Eph 4:1-16; Rom 12:3-8; John 4:13-14; 7:37-39

- How do we see the Trinity at work in the ministry of the body of Christ? (4-6)
- What does Paul emphasize about God's divine initiative in our serving? (7, 11)
- How does understanding God's sovereignty in our gifting and serving change how we view our role in the local body of Christ?

You are needed in the body of Christ (15-20)

1 Peter 4:10-11

- How does Paul's analogy show the need for a variety of parts of the body?
- How does this passage help us when we may think we are not needed in the local church?
- How do 1 Peter 4:10-11 and the roles of elders and deacons help us think about ways we are needed in the body?
- What are some reasons that we may inaccurately perceive the need to serve?
 - In the sermon I mentioned the following:
 - Serving is not merely programmatic
 - Serving is not merely up front (1 Peter 4:10-11)
 - Serving is not "having it all together"

You need the body of Christ (21-27)

- What is the key problem for the parts of the body in the analogy Paul uses in verse 21?
- How does this passage show that our perception of the importance of other members can be distorted? (22-24a)
- What is significant about the word "composed" in verse 24b? How can that help us think of others who are different from us?
- What are practical ways we can have "the same care for one another"?