



**Doggy Bag:** Something to Chew On and Ponder Throughout the Week

1. Reflect on how you used your spiritual gifts this past week. Then read: **1 Corinthians 12:12-31a**
2. Describe yourself as a “part” of the body of Christ (an eye, hand, etc.). Why did you select that part?
3. Why is verse 12 such a good illustration of verse 13?
4. Read verse 26. How good are you at hurting with a fellow believer who is suffering and rejoicing with a fellow believer who is honored? Which comes easier for you?
5. Paul observes that some gifts seem to have more “honor” than others. Which gifts are more esteemed or respected in our church? Which gifts are likely to be underappreciated?
6. Are we needier than we like to admit?
7. How might the American virtue of being independent be in conflict with the Christian value of being interdependent? Why do you think being needy is frowned upon by our society? Is being needy always wrong?
8. How connected are you to your church body? What could you do to help “the body” function better? How do you (or could you) use your gifts and abilities within the church? What holds you back from using your gifts more fully?
9. **Practice:** This week, take a moment to express your gratitude verbally or offer a small token of appreciation to a ministry leader or church staff that you think might be under appreciated.



Being Needy

1 Corinthians 12:12-31

Rev. Abi Foerster

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*But you are a chosen people, **a royal priesthood**, a holy nation, God’s special possession, that you may declare the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light. (1 Peter 2:9)*

1. You are a \_\_\_\_\_!

**Review:** Every follower of Christ is given spiritual gifts **for ministry to fulfill the calling of Christ** in our lives.

2. **Our individual calling is always a part of God’s mission for the church and cannot be fulfilled \_\_\_\_\_ the body of Christ.**

*“In a real sense all life is interrelated. All men [and women] are caught in an inescapable network of mutuality, tied in a single garment of destiny. Whatever affects one directly, affects all indirectly. I can never be what I ought to be until you are what you ought to be, and you can never be what you ought to be until I am what I ought to be . . . This is the interrelated structure of reality.” (Martin Luther King, Jr.)*

**Key Point: We need each other!**

**So, what does it mean to be needy from God's point of view?**

**3. In the body of Christ, \_\_\_\_\_ and the gifts that we bring to the church are indeed interrelated.**

*<sup>12</sup> Just as a body, though one, has many parts, but all its many parts form one body, so it is with Christ. (v. 12)*

**Example: Holy Communion**

“Because there is one loaf, we, who are many, are one body, for we all partake of the one loaf. The bread which we break is a sharing in the body of Christ.” (The United Methodist Hymnal, p. 11)

**Example: Jigsaw Puzzle**

*<sup>14</sup> “the body does not consist of one member but of many... <sup>15</sup> Now if the foot should say, “Because I am not a hand, I do not belong to the body,” it would not for that reason stop being part of the body.<sup>16</sup> And if the ear should say, “Because I am not an eye, I do not belong to the body,” it would not for that reason stop being part of the body.<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? (v.14 – 17)*

**4. When we are all working together, no task is \_\_\_\_\_ important than another.**

*<sup>18</sup> But in fact God has placed 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. (v. 18 – 20)*

*<sup>22</sup> On the contrary, those parts of the body that seem to be weaker are indispensable, <sup>23</sup> and the parts that we think are less honorable we treat with special honor. (v.22- 23)*

**PONDER & PRAY:** We must come to terms with our own vulnerability and dependency on one another in order to grow our faith and ministry as a church. Take a moment to write a prayer to God for the Holy Spirit to help you with this...

**Then, ask yourself:** How can I use my spiritual gifts to become a channel of God's grace through the ministry of St. Thomas so that our neighbors will come to know Christ and the world is transformed?

- If you don't know what your spiritual gifts are or how to activate them, please consider participating in the upcoming class on Spiritual Gifts! Email Pastor Abi to be included, [abi.foerster@stthomasumc.org](mailto:abi.foerster@stthomasumc.org).