

The Chapel Family Bible Reading Program – May 22-27
Doing Life Together – Body Works Pt 2

MONDAY: Romans 12:4, Ephesians 4:4, Ephesians 4:16

KEY VERSE: 1 Corinthians 12:12-13

OBSERVATION: These first two verses give the theological basis for the body imagery that is developed in the rest of this passage. Paul states that every part of the body is essential because every believer is a member of the church. If this passage teaches anything, it teaches us that both inferiority feelings and superiority feelings are out of bounds in Christ's church. Everybody is somebody because we're in this together.

TUESDAY: Romans 12:6, Romans 12:3, 1 Peter 4:10

KEY VERSE: 1 Corinthians 12:14-20

OBSERVATION: In these verses, Paul, in a somewhat humorous vein, attempts to get his point across that every member of the body has a different role to play, but that all of these parts are needed in order for the body to function as a unit. Paul is making a simple statement of fact that every part of the body, every organ, is valuable. Everybody is somebody because we're in this together.

WEDNESDAY: Matthew 3:15, Matthew 5:29

KEY VERSE: 1 Corinthians 12:21-26

OBSERVATION: Beginning at 12:21, we have a transition from those who feel inferior in their gifts to those who feel superior. In this section, we see members who suffer from a superiority complex. As we have seen on several occasions in this letter, pride was indeed a problem among the Corinthians. Paul needs to get across that all of the members in Corinth need each other, and no one is dispensable.

THURSDAY: Romans 12:5, Ephesians 1:23, Colossians 1:18

KEY VERSE: 1 Corinthians 12:27

OBSERVATION: Your service is desperately needed in the Body of Christ — just ask any local church. Each of us has a role to play, and every role is important. There is no small service to God; it all matters. What would happen? Your body would die. Today, thousands of local churches are dying because of Christians who are unwilling to serve. They sit on the sidelines as spectators, and the Body suffers. God calls you to a service far beyond anything you could ever imagine. He created you for a life of good deeds, which he has already prepared for you to do (Ephesians 2:10). Whenever you serve others in any way, you are actually serving God.

FRIDAY: Romans 12:7-8, 1 Corinthians 12:5, 1 Corinthians 14:26

KEY VERSE: 1 Corinthians 12:27-31

OBSERVATION: Paul takes the analogy of the physical body and applies it practically in terms of gifting and how ministry is to be expressed. Paul lists eight kinds of members with special functions. The ranking of the first three items corresponds to their building up the local church. Paul's final words are found in 12:31: The command to "earnestly desire the best gifts" is not addressed to the individual but to the collective church.

SATURDAY: Jeremiah 32:39, John 3:16-17, John 17:8

KEY VERSE: John 17:20-21

OBSERVATION: When we diminish the importance of unity in the body of Christ, we risk being invaded by the enemy. God has called us to divine fellowship. That fellowship is one of the most powerful tools of witness to a lost and dying world. If we don't protect it, strive for it, and do everything we can to promote it, we open the gate to the enemy. The enemy will attack your family and your church, causing ineffectiveness and destruction.