



In Fellowship

Getting More Grounded In God
Means Getting More Connected With God's People

“Ecclesiology”—

PRINCIPLES OF BODY LIFE

#1 **UNITY:** Though the Church has many members it was designed to function as One Living Organism.

1 Corinthians 12:12 *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.*

#2 **DIVERSITY:** The individual members of that One Body come from varied backgrounds and possess differing functions.

1 Corinthians 12:13 *For in one Spirit we were all baptized into one body—Jews or Greeks, slaves or free—and all were made to drink of one Spirit. ¹⁴For the body does not consist of one member but of many.*

#3 **VALUE:** Every single member is important and what each contributes to the overall health of the body is vital.

1 Corinthians 12:15 *If the foot should say, “Because I am not a hand, I do not belong to the body,” that would not make it any less a part of the body.*

1 Corinthians 12:19 *If all were a single member, where would the body be? ²⁰As it is, there are many parts, yet one body.*

#4 **INTERDEPENDENCE:** Each member needs all the others.

1 Corinthians 12:21 *The eye cannot say to the hand, “I have no need of you,” nor again the head to the feet, “I have no need of you.”*

#5 **EQUAL HONOR:** No member is inferior or superior to any other member, regardless of relative visibility.

1 Corinthians 12:22 *On the contrary, the parts of the body that seem to be weaker are indispensable, ²³and on those parts of the body that we think less honorable we bestow the greater honor, and our unpresentable parts are treated with greater modesty, ²⁴which our more*

presentable parts do not require. But God has so composed the body, giving greater honor to the part that lacked it...

#6 **SOVEREIGNTY:** God has gifted each member as He sees fit, with no one possessing all the gifts.

1 Corinthians 12:28 *And God has appointed in the church first apostles, second prophets, third teachers, then miracles, then gifts of healing, helping, administrating, and various kinds of tongues. ²⁹Are all apostles? Are all prophets? Are all teachers? Do all work miracles? ³⁰Do all possess gifts of healing? Do all speak with tongues? Do all interpret?*

“TOXIC” ATTITUDES

- Traditionalism – *We’ve never done it that way before.*
- ‘Devil’s Advocate’ – *Let me tell you all the reasons why it’s not gonna work and people won’t like it.*
- Spiritual Superiority – *I’m the only one doing ministry right.*
- ‘Phariseeism’ – *You should be more like me. I’m the standard.*
- The Crusader – *Everyone should take up my cause!*
- Playing Favorites – *I only like it when ____ preaches, leads worship.*
- The Prima-donna – *Look at me! Put me up there. I’m the best!*
- Territorialism – *Don’t mess with MY ministry/room/seat/idea. Keep your hands off!*
- Prejudice – *Too many of ‘those people’ in here will ruin our church.*
- False Humility – *I guess I’m just not really needed around here.*
- ‘Poor Me’ Syndrome – *Nobody ministered to me; no one talked to me. This church doesn’t really care!*
- Critical Spirit – *Let me tell you all the things I don’t like...*
- ‘Flapping Tongue Syndrome’ – *I shouldn’t say anything but did you hear that _____ is struggling again?*
- Consumerism – *I want what I want, when I want it, how I want it. Everything should cater to my tastes or I’m outta here!*
- AWOL – *I can just walk away and not tell anyone or say anything.*

“WE ARE THE BODY OF CHRIST”