

How to Serve the Church

1 Corinthians 12:18-26

1 Corinthians 12:18-26 (NASB)

¹⁸ “But now God has placed the members, each one of them, in the body, just as He desired.

¹⁹ If they were all one member, where would the body be?

²⁰ But now there are many members, but one body.

²¹ And the eye cannot say to the hand, "I have no need of you"; or again the head to the feet, "I have no need of you."

²² On the contrary, it is much truer that the members of the body which seem to be weaker are necessary;

²³ and those *members* of the body which we deem less honorable, on these we bestow more abundant honor, and our less presentable members become much more presentable,

²⁴ whereas our more presentable members have no need of *it*. But God has *so* composed the body, giving more abundant honor to that *member* which lacked,

²⁵ so that there may be no division in the body, but *that* the members may have the same care for one another.

²⁶ And if one member suffers, all the members suffer with it; if *one* member is honored, all the members rejoice with it.”

When I talk about Christians serving the church with their God-given talents and gifts, people oftentimes think too small, perhaps picturing the choir singer or the Sunday school teacher. But if they themselves aren't naturally adept at singing or teaching, they give up.

It's time that we stop thinking in terms of a “**Sunday only**” establishment. The church is not simply a place or a time; it is a body of believers, each one uniquely gifted by God to guide, help, challenge, and support the rest. In fact, most service to the Lord doesn't take place inside the church building. It happens out in the world, where we do all the things that Scripture commands.

The majority of believers aren't in a position to influence a lot of people. When we act or speak, only those closest to us notice, but a chain reaction ripples outward to affect an entire community. Paul's metaphor of body parts working together harmoniously is a helpful description of how one small action can have a widespread impact. Consider the way tensing your toes will keep your foot stable and thereby steady your whole body. In the same way, a gentle rebuke, a listening ear, or a loving deed benefits the church by strengthening one brother or sister, who then supports another.

We are on this earth to serve the kingdom of God and His church. And we do that by ministering to each other in small ways that steady the whole body as we give extra support to one member. In talking about such service, I challenge you to find a need that God can meet through you.