



**WORD**

*From him the whole body, joined and held together by every supporting ligament, grows and builds itself up in love, as each part does its work.* EPHESIANS 4:16

**WHAT**

Using the human body as his illustration, Paul explained three important facts about the different parts and roles in the Body of Christ.

**1 The body needs different parts to function.**

*Now the body is not made up of one part but of many.*  
1 CORINTHIANS 12:14 (ALSO READ 1 CORINTHIANS 12:15-17.)

A body has many parts with different functions—some big, some small—but each part is essential to make a body whole. As part of God’s family or the Body of Christ, you too have an important part to play in advancing His work here on earth. What roles have you played when you were just starting out in your walk with God? How has that role grown in time?

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**2 The different parts should depend on one another.**

<sup>18</sup>*But in fact God has arranged 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.* <sup>21</sup>*The eye cannot say to the hand, “I don’t need you!” And the head cannot say to the feet, “I don’t need you!”* 1 CORINTHIANS 12:18-21

A body is healthy when each part is also in good condition and when all parts work together as one entity. Each part needs each other to function as a whole. Similarly, we as members of one spiritual family need each other so we can function as one. Identify instances when you needed a friend’s help. How about those times you were able to help someone?

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**3 The parts should have mutual concern for each other.**

<sup>24</sup>... *But God has combined the members of the body and has given greater honor to the parts that lacked it,* <sup>25</sup>*so that there should be no division in the body, but that its parts should have equal concern for each other.* 1 CORINTHIANS 12:24,25

Why should each part care for each other? It is because they all belong to one body. In such unity, whatever one part feels will have an effect on the whole body. How have you experienced this? How did you help someone in church with a problem or how did your friend help you when you were in need?

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