

Think About ... “THE BODY OF CHRIST”



Bible Study

Read each of the Scripture passages and discuss the questions together to learn what it means to be part of body of Christ.

For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, not a result of works, so that no one may boast (Eph. 2:8-9).

1. What is grace?

2. What is faith?

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. 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 (1 Cor.12:12-13).

1. When we are saved what does God do with us?

2. What are the three items that are referred to with the concept of “one.”

For the body does not consist of one member but of many. 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. And if the ear should say, “Because I am not an eye, I do not belong to the body,” that would not make it any less a part of the body. If the whole body were an eye, where would be the sense of hearing? If the whole body were an ear, where would be the sense of smell? (1 Cor. 12:14-17).

1. What seems to be the focus of these verses?

2. What are the senses and what do they do for the body?

3. What other things does the body do? Think of your physical body.

But as it is, God arranged the members in the body, each one of them, as he chose. If all were a single member, where would the body be? As it is, there are many parts, yet one body (1 Cor. 12:18-20).

1. Who designed and created all things?

2. Why did God make the body with so many systems, functions and purposes?

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." On the contrary, the parts of the body that seem to be weaker are indispensable, and on those parts of the body that we think less honorable we bestow the greater honor, and our unrepresentable parts are treated with greater modesty, which our more presentable parts do not require. But God has so composed the body, giving greater honor to the part that lacked it, that there may be no division in the body, but that the members may have the same care for one another (1 Cor. 12:21-25).

1. What is our natural, instinctive reaction when confronted with someone or something different?

2. What is our natural, instinctive reaction when confronted with someone or something that is embarrassing to us?

3. What would God want us to do and not do when someone is an embarrassment to us?

If one member suffers, all suffer together; if one member is honored, all rejoice together. Now you are the body of Christ and individually members of it (1 Cor. 12:26-27).

1. Have you ever experienced a time or situation when someone with a disability has a success, against all odds? Please tell what happened.

2. After reading these verses what can and should the Church's view and response be to someone who has a disability?

And they devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers. And awe came upon every soul, and many wonders and signs were being done through the apostles. And all who believed were together and had all things in common. And they were selling their possessions and belongings and distributing the proceeds to all, as any had need. And day by day, attending the temple together and breaking bread in their homes, they received their food with glad and generous hearts (Acts 2:42-46).

1. What is God urging his people to do?

2. What takes place in worship?

I appeal to you therefore, brothers, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship (Rom. 12:1).

1. What is another aspect of worship according to this verse?

2. Where and when does this take place?

3. What can the Church or your congregation do to help people with disabilities fulfill Rom. 12:1?

For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them (Eph. 2:10).

1. As God's people what is the purpose of our life prior to heaven?

2. How does this happen for a person with a disability?

And he gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the shepherds and teachers, to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ, until we all attain to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to mature manhood, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ (Eph. 4:11-13).

1. Who is responsible for equipping and training God's people?

2. What are we equipped or trained to do?

3. Why do we do this?

Notes:

Models of Interaction with People with Disabilities

Look at the various models of interaction currently used and discuss the pros and cons for your specific situation or context.

› **Medical Model**

This is good for a first-line approach toward people who have just faced a physical loss. Modern medical technology continues to make great advances very quickly and this can provide medical assistance that wasn't previously available.

› **Rehab Model**

This model works at rehabilitating a person so that he or she may be reintegrated into society, especially into employment. It assumes that all people are able to work if given the proper training and the right tools.

› **Custodial Model**

This model views people with disabilities as incapable and severely limited in employment abilities, life skills, personal care and, usually, all aspects of life.

› **Hero Model**

This model views people with disabilities as capable of doing almost anything.

› **Homogeneous Model**

This model sees people with disabilities as wanting and needing to be together. It creates a separate environment for them. It believes that being together they will understand one another, their needs and be more able to meet their needs.

› **Inclusive Model**

This model acknowledges that people with disabilities have abilities and skills that can and should contribute to the whole of the community. It seeks to permit openings, outlets or areas in which people may enter the community and contribute.

› **Holistic or Empowering Model**

This model sees all people as important members of society and the kingdom of God, with or without disabilities.