**YOU ARE THE BODY OF CHRIST**

1 Corinthians 12:1-31a

Key Verse 12:27

*“Now you are the body of Christ, and each one of you is a part of it.”*

1. Read verses 1-3. What new topic does Paul introduce here (1)? Who led them astray when they were pagans (2)? What was the evidence that now they were led by the Holy Spirit (3)? How is this the basis for being a member of Christ’s body and for having spiritual gifts?
2. Read verses 4-11. Among the gifts of God, what are different, and what are the same (4-6, 11)? For what general purpose does the Spirit give gifts (7; Eph 4:11-13)? List the different gifts Paul mentions (8-10). Why is it important to recognize the gifts in ourselves and others? How does understanding the purpose and diversity of gifts lead to the proper exercise of them?

1. Read verses 12-14. What metaphor does Paul use? How does it help us understand the church? How could such racially, culturally and socially different people be one?
2. Read verses 15-20. What different body parts are mentioned (15-17)? What is the function of each, and what happens when any one is impaired? Instead of competing with or envying others, how can we find our unique identity and purpose in the body (18-20)? How would this help solve problems of division in the church?
3. Read verses 21-27. How does Paul describe the indispensability, interdependence and coordination of all parts of the body? How does Paul apply the metaphor of the body to the community of believers (27)?
4. Read verses 28-31a. What are the different church roles mentioned here, and where do they come from (28)? Think about God’s sovereignty in appointing his servants and giving spiritual gifts in the body of Christ (29-30). Considering the purpose of gifts, what does it mean to “eagerly desire the greater gifts” (31a)?