

# 1 Corinthians 12:12-31

## No one is insignificant to the Kingdom of God.

### Verse 12

The body is the Church. A body is one whole connected entity, and if something is separated from the body it is no longer a part of that body. In the same way the Church is the body of Christ, and all who believe are a part of it regardless of location, denomination, or congregation.

### Verse 13

We are all baptized by the same Spirit and having it live within us. Regardless of whom we are, what we do, or what we look like, when we are saved, we are filled with the same Holy Spirit and are thus all connected to the same body, and the body is diverse. Jew or Greek, slave or free, God has offered the same salvation to all who believe. This was an issue because the Jews believed they were God's chosen people and would be the only ones to receive the salvation. So this was a race issue for them.

### Verses 14 – 17

All parts of the body belong to the body. We can't say that something doesn't belong to the body just because it's different. Stop and think, if God created everyone on the earth, then isn't there a reason that we are all different? We see this again in Verse 18.

### Verse 18

Everyone is where God wants them, and belongs because He put them there. God has created everyone with a purpose, and we are where we are to serve that purpose, and have been gifted to do so.

### Verses 19 – 20

The human body is made up of many parts such as the arms, legs, eyes, ears, heart, brain, lungs, even the kidneys. Each part serves a different function, but still makes up the body. Therefore, how can the body be whole if one of these parts were missing?

### Verse 21

This is a direct metaphor to the body of Christ. How can one part of the human body say that another part of the body is unnecessary or insignificant? In the same manner, how can a member of the body of Christ say that anyone is not needed? How can they say that anyone does not belong?

### Verse 22

The strength we assign to certain members of the body does not determine their vitality. (The arms vs the kidneys)

### Verses 23 – 24

In the same manner, those parts of the body that we see working and recognize on a regular basis do not need any further recognition. We see the arms and know that they function on a daily basis, yet when do we ever stop to recognize that our kidneys work? In fact, when do we ever pay mind to the kidneys, except for when they stop working? This applies to the Church as

well. The members we don't give recognition to deserve it according to Paul. In fact, he says we are to treat those parts in the spotlight with modesty, and give special honor to those who aren't.

#### Verse 25

There should not be any division among the body. Every part of the body is of equal importance, and we should treat it as such. The body is entirely interdependent upon its parts. Because everything that God does is perfect, nothing in the body is lacking in purpose, and therefore we should not diminish or uplift any part over another.

#### Verse 26

As one body we should show support for one another in every aspect of our lives. If a member of the body is going through a tough time, we should not allow them to go through it alone, and overlook their struggles. In the same way we should celebrate with each other as well. In a sense, Paul is calling us to shift the focus off of ourselves, and be aware of the other members of the body and their circumstances.

#### Verse 27

Paul continues to hit this point home because he doesn't want them to miss it. We are one Church, one body. Despite the fact that we come from different places, and speak different languages, and look different, we are still one through Christ. Like Paul said in verse 13 we are all baptized by the same Spirit into the body. Now Paul goes to explain the way the body fits together and where the gifts belong in the body in verse 28.

#### Verse 28

All of the spiritual gifts are placed on the same level. No gift is any greater than another that an individual can possess. So the Corinthians were arguing a moot point. Now that he's taken apart their argument, let's see what he says in verses 29 and 30.

#### Verses 29 – 30

The gifts that God gives to us individually are not all the same. Essentially he's saying that we all have to be different. But if we remember correctly in verse 17, that's how God wants us to be. He made every single person uniquely different and placed them exactly where they need to be to best serve and glorify Him.

#### Verse 31

Now this is strange because Paul spends the entire passage focusing on how each part of the body had an important purpose and is gifted differently to fulfill it, so why is he telling them to desire the greater gifts? Well he directs this not at the individual, as he has been doing with this passage, but at the Church as a whole. Together we should all seek to raise up these greater gifts within the Church to bring glory to God.

Bottom Line: No one is insignificant to the Kingdom of God.

Imagine if we truly believed and acted on that...