

^Better Together^ *Care for One Another*

Main Point: God has placed you to live out your purpose in this place for His pleasure.

1 Corinthians 12:14-26 - *“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? 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. 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 unpresentable 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. If one member suffers, all suffer together; if one member is honored, all rejoice together.”*

Puzzle Piece Principles

1. Each piece is distinct and yet united with the whole.

1 Corinthians 12:14 – *“For the body does not consist of one member but of many.”*

Unity is good, and diversity is good.

Ephesians 4:25 – *“For we are members one of another.”*

2. Each piece is indispensable, and no one is inferior.

1 Corinthians 12:15-16 – *“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.”*

Every part of the human body is designed to work in sync with every other part of the body.

1 Corinthians 12:17 – *“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?”*

This church will never function as God intends if you and I don't fulfill our individual roles.

3. Each piece is divinely designed and perfectly placed in the body.

God made you just the way He wanted you! You have been designed to reflect His purposes! He has shaped you for spiritual significance!

1 Corinthians 12:18 – *“But as it is, God arranged the members in the body, each one of them, as He chose.”*

Once you discover your place, then it's time to plug into the greatest adventure ever.

Psalms 135:6 – *“Whatever the LORD pleases, He does...”*

When we make a commitment to connect with Christ and with His people, He is pleased beyond measure.

4. No one is superior; everyone is essential.

1 Corinthians 12:19-21 – *“If all were a single member, where would the body be? As it is, there are many parts, yet one body. 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.’”*

Your contribution to the kingdom is unique, and your role is essential.

Two Challenges

1. Promote unity.

According to **verse 25**, God does this so *“that there may be no division in the body...”*

2. Practice mutual care.

1 Corinthians 12:25b – *“...but that the members may have the same care for one another.”*

1 Corinthians 12:26 – *“If one member suffers, all suffer together; if one member is honored, all rejoice together.”*

Verse 27 provides a great summary statement: *“Now you are the body of Christ, and individually members of it.”*

Your Piece in God’s Puzzle

- Study the picture on the box to see what you’re creating.
- Dump the pieces out of the box.
- Turn all the pieces right-side up.
- Find the central subject and work to complete it.
- Find a friend to help.
- Don’t force a piece to fit if it doesn’t.
- Work on one piece at a time.
- Never give up.
- Make sure you have all the pieces.
- Keep referring back to the big picture.

Application

1. Take the next step in connecting to this body.
2. Figure out how you fit, and then plug into God’s puzzle.
3. Ask God to give you a practical way to come alongside someone this week.
4. Invite others to discover their place at Cavanaugh.

I’ve always liked the church sign that says,
“What’s missing from ch__ch? UR.”

Discussion Questions

1. What is unity? What is diversity?
2. How can we have unity and diversity at the same time?
3. Have you ever felt that your job in the body of Christ was inferior to someone else's? What caused you to feel that way? What can you do to realize your importance?
4. Do you know someone who feels like they don't matter to the body of Christ? What can you do to show them they do matter and someone cares?
5. What skill or talent do you wish you had but don't? Why do you wish you had that skill or talent?
6. What skills or talents did God give you? How are you fulfilling your role in the body of Christ?
7. Read **2 Corinthians 12:7-10**. What makes you feel inadequate for the job God has designed for you to do? What do you need to do when you feel inadequate for the task? Who can you ask for help in this area?
8. What are we doing when we question how God has made us?
9. How do you view other people's gifts? Do you see some as more important or less important than others? Explain. Why do we see things this way? Does God see things the way we do?
10. Why did God design so many gifts? Why do you think He designed us to depend on others?
11. What happens when we work together using the different gifts He has given us?
12. What does it mean to mutually care for one another?
13. What does it mean to be part of the body of Christ?
14. Which of the applications to puzzles stuck out the most to you? Why?
15. Have you discovered what ministry is the right fit for you? If so, what is it and how is God working through you and that ministry? If not, what is your next step to figuring out what ministry is the right fit for you?