

When the church was in its infancy...

The Lord set certain offices in place so the church could fully function as designed

Ephesians 4:11 1 Corinthians 12:28

In reference to the church I mean the spiritual body of Christ

Church comes from the Greek word ekklesia, meaning "a called out assembly"

Thayer says that the word means "a gathering of citizens called out from their homes into some public place; an assembly"

In 1 Corinthians 12, **our physical body** is used to illustrate **the spiritual body** of Christ

What about our bodies?

God made my body **Genesis 1:26 Psalm 139:14**

God set my members (hand, foot, eye, etc..) in the place He desired **1 Corinthians 12:18**

It takes all my members working together in one body to be as God designed **verses 12-25**

We may view some of our members as **less honorable, weaker, unrepresentable, unnecessary**

But Paul said no member can say it has no need of another **1 Corinthians 12:21**

The apostle applies this principal to the church, the spiritual body of Christ **verse 27**

Are you a member of the body of Christ?

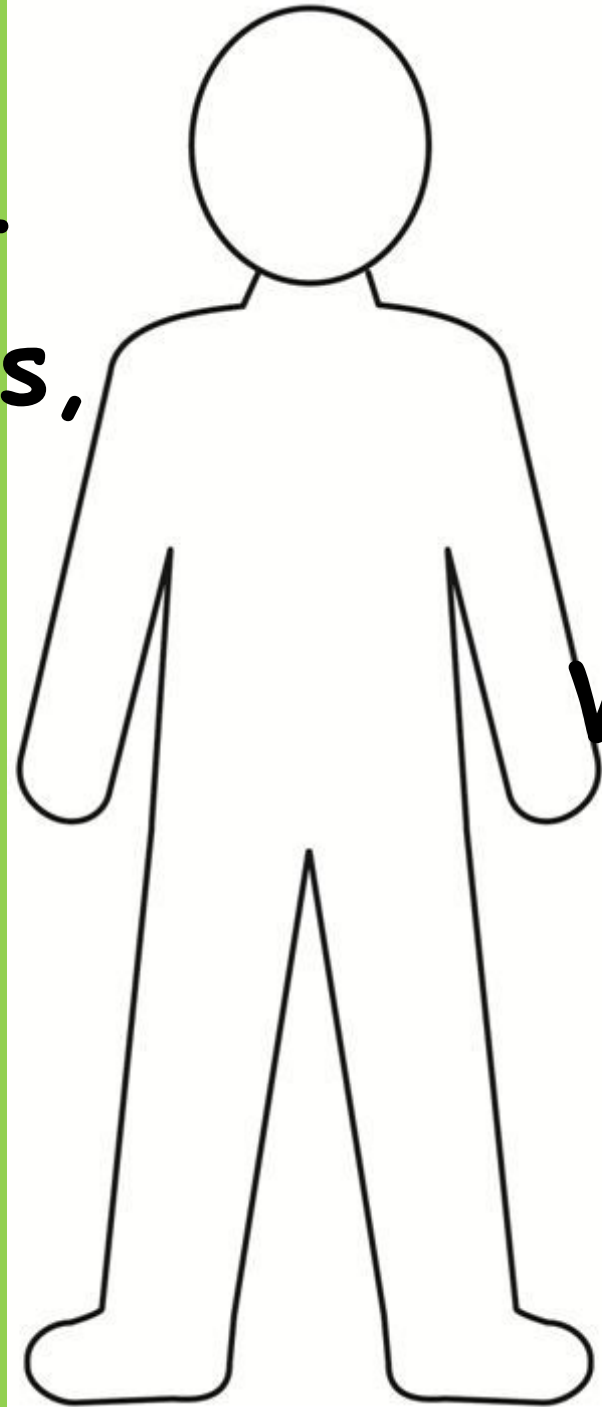
1 Corinthians 12:13

Are you important?

The body consist
of saints, bishops,
deacons **Phil 1:1**

The body "us" is
the saved
1 Cor 12:27-30

Ephesians 4:11



Christ is Head
Colossians 1:18

Apostles?

Prophets?

Workers of miracles?

Teachers?

Evangelists?

Pastors?

What does it take for a local church to continue to exist?

Not just new converts, but it takes...

Each member studying and preparing to take on the needed roles in the church

Who will be the future teachers, preachers, class teachers, deacons, elders, etc....????

Young men in this congregation, what are you doing to prepare yourself for leadership roles in this local church?

Young ladies, are you allowing the older women to teach you? Are you preparing yourself to be a teacher of children and younger women as you become mature in Christ? **Titus 2**

Paul said in 2 Timothy 2:2

And the things that you have heard from me among many witnesses, commit these to faithful men who will be able to teach others also.

Be like Isaiah in 6:8 "Here am I! Send me."

Ask the elders for opportunities to take active roles in the services.

You are needed. You are important.

Therefore my beloved brethren, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that your labor is not in vain in the Lord. 1 Corinthians 15:58

How did Timothy become a gospel preacher?

He had a Christian mother Acts 16:1

He had a good reputation Acts 16:2

He was given an opportunity by Paul Acts 16:3

Timothy accepted the challenge. He went on to be a teacher and gospel preacher. What about you? 1 Timothy 4:11-16

