

We Belong



**Together We Are the
Body of Christ**

1 Corinthians 12:12-31

We Belong

1. The Holy Spirit unites me with other believers in a local church. 12:12-13

**Through the work of
the Spirit, Christians
experience unity as a
spiritual reality in the
local church.**

**The purpose of the
Spirit's activity is to
form believers into
one body.**

**Am I resisting the
presence and activity
of the Spirit in my life
by not participating
with local believers
with whom I have been
united?**

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2. The Spirit, deliberately and by design, places believers in a unified and diverse local church to best meet both individual and corporate needs. 12:14-20, 27-31

Diversity is essential in the church according to God's design. Each part is needed for the body to function properly.

Because the unity is spiritual, not the result of any other determining factor, the members of the local church will be very different from one another and this is for the good of the individual and the church.



DON'T DO THAT!

**How comfortable am I
with the God-given
diversity in my local
church? How do I
handle the way I and
others are different?**

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3. The unity in diversity created by God's Spirit combines with the mission given by God to produce the fellowship in the local church I need to go the distance in my walk with Christ.

12:21-26

The fellowship in the local church appears to consist first of a commitment to the larger purposes that naturally come with being united in Christ.

The fellowship in the local church consists secondly in the intimate love for and understanding of one another. We are committed to Christ and his mission, and we are committed to one another.





**Do I experience and
contribute to healthy
and nurturing
relationships in the
local church that allow
us to accomplish the
mission given to us by
God?**

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I invite you today to allow the Spirit to guide you to a local body of believers where you can be a part of the body of Christ.

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I invite you to recognize the diversity in the body of Christ and to take your own unique place to exercise your unique gifts and fulfill your unique role.

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I invite you make a commitment to forming and nurturing healthy relationships in the local church that will allow you to walk in Christ with a diverse group of people over a long period of time as, together, we accomplish God's purposes.