

Prayer Resources: Reflection – video transcript

Reader 1

St Paul, in his letter to the Christians in Corinth, uses the image of a body to show that although there are many members in the church, they are one body.

1 Cor 12: 4-7, 12, 13

Now there are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit; and there are varieties of services, but the same Lord; and there are varieties of activities, but it is the same God who activates all of them in everyone. To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good.

For just as the body is one and has many members, and all the members of the body, though many, are one body, so it is with Christ. For in the one Spirit we were all baptized into one body – Jews or Greeks, slaves or free – and we were all made to drink of one Spirit.

Let us pray that we may be able to see the gifts of others as well as our own and to use them well and wisely in the service of God's Church. Amen

Reader 2

St Paul also reminds them that the parts of the body are interdependent. Each has something to offer and we need one another.

1 Cor 12: 17 – 21

If the whole body were an eye, where would the hearing be? If the whole body were hearing, where would the sense of smell be? But as it is, God arranged the members in the body, each of them, as he chose. If all were a single member, where would the body be? As it is, there are many members, 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."

Let us pray for the grace to acknowledge our own limitations and to recognize our need of one another. Amen

Reader 3

Later in the passage, St Paul affirms that the stronger and the weaker members are to work together for the benefit of the whole body.

1 Cor 12: 22 – 26

The members of the body that seem to be weaker are indispensable, and those members of the body that we think less honorable we clothe with greater honour, and our less respectable members are treated with greater respect; whereas our more respectable members do not need this. But God has so arranged the body, giving the greater honour to the inferior member, that there may be no dissension within the body, but the members may have the same care for one another. If one member suffers, all suffer together with it; if one member is honoured, all rejoice together with it.

Let us pray that we may love and care for one another as children of the same heavenly Father. Amen

