

Life as a Body

1 Corinthians 12.12-27

1. The Unity of the Body, vs 12-13

- *the body is a unit v12*
- *we join it through God's Spirit v13*
we're immersed into the Church
- *the Spirit is our life and vitality v13*
he irrigates our lives

2. The Diversity of the Body, vs 14-21

- *our diversity is deliberate v18*
part of God's master plan
- *diversity enhances capabilities v17*
different functions v15
- *in the church ...*
feet – for going places Is 52.7
hands – for practical skills 1 Th 4.11
ears – for listening
eyes – for catching God's vision

- **God assigns our roles vs 18,28**
according to our S-H-A-P-E
Spiritual gifts
Heart (passions)
Abilities
Personality
Experiences
don't seek other roles vs29-30
together, seek the best gifts v31
especially love 13.2
- **our gifts are for the good of others**
not for personal fulfilment v7
- **none should feel excluded vs 15-16**
because they're 'different'
- **none should be excluded v21**
because they're 'different'

3. The Health of the Body, vs 22-27

- *the 'weaker' parts are
indispensable v22
bringing out the best in the 'strong'
Mat 25.36-40;
overcoming self-interest
Rom 15.1-2; Phil 2.3-7*
- *the 'unimportant' need to be
honoured v23; Rom 12.10*
- *the 'unpresentable' need to be
treated discretely vs23-24*
- *we want no divisions,
only equal care vs 24-27
true empathy*