



**PRACTICE:**

Read the prayer below and reflect on your own holy and human shape. Take some moments of quietness during the day to give thanks for all that is.

Now, O Lord, calm me into a quietness that heals and listens, and molds my longings and passions, my wounds and wondering into a more holy and human shape.

-Ted Loder, *Guerillas of Grace*

REFLECTION

1 Corinthians 12:20-25

Paul has received news of differences and division in opinions among the believers in Corinth, including information that many disagreed on, things like marriage and the roles of women, in this new church. We read in Chapter 12, Paul's examples of how the parts of our bodies are dependent on one another and that we are called to recognize and care for these differences. He includes the now familiar and interesting phrase that the church is the "body of Christ". Paul writes of the desire for unity while still honoring the differences we see in others--a statement of unity in diversity.

DISCUSSION

**What do you think about this analogy of the church as the body of Christ? How does the church (including our church) deal with difference and division?**

**In an earlier verse in Chapter 12, we read "God has arranged the parts in the body, every one of them just as He wanted them to be". Does this statement comfort or challenge us? This chapter also includes words on gifts given to us by the Spirit. What gifts do you see in yourself and in one another?**

