
GROUP WARM UP:

Over the last week, what's one way I have noticed God working in your life? Or in the lives of others? In your community? In the world?

BIG IDEA

The 'new me' belongs to the 'new we,' to help grow and mature the body of Christ

KEY TAKEAWAYS/APPLICATION:

1st Takeaway: We belong to each other NOT as independent, but as interdependent members.

2nd Takeaway: We belong to each other NOT as self-focused, but as empathetic members.

3rd Takeaway: We belong to each other NOT as one-sided, but mutually committed members.

OBSERVATION QUESTIONS

1. In 1 Corinthians 12, what are some of the ways Paul describes the relationship between the different members of the body? What does he say about the value of the less visible or "weaker" parts?
2. According to the sermon, what is the difference between sympathy and empathy? How does Paul's metaphor of the body help us understand this difference?
3. What are some of the "one another" commands mentioned in the New Testament, and why can't they be lived out in isolation?
4. The sermon mentions that the American church often mirrors a consumer-driven mindset. What are some examples given of how this mindset shows up in church life?

INTERPRETATION QUESTIONS

5. Why do you think Paul uses the metaphor of the body to describe the church? What does this teach us about our need for one another and the dangers of independence?
6. The sermon says, "Belonging to the church means moving beyond independence to interdependence, and beyond self-focus to empathy." What does it look like for a church to actually live this out?
7. How does the example of Jesus entering into people's suffering (like in John 11:35, "Jesus wept") shape our understanding of empathy and belonging in the church?
8. The sermon talks about commitment as the "bedrock of belonging." Why is mutual commitment so important for spiritual growth and witness, especially in a culture that is skeptical of institutions?

APPLICATION QUESTIONS

9. The sermon challenges us to move from asking "What's in it for me?" to "How can I give, serve, and grow with others?" In what ways have you seen a consumer mindset in

your own approach to church? What is one step you could take to shift toward a mindset of serving and giving?

10. Paul says that every member is indispensable, even those who feel less visible or important. Do you ever feel like your gifts or presence don't matter in the church? What would it look like to discover and use your unique gifts for the good of others?
11. The sermon explains that empathy means "I feel with you," not just "I feel for you." Think of a recent situation where someone in your church or small group was suffering or rejoicing. How could you have entered into their experience more deeply? What might keep you from doing this, and how can you overcome it?
12. The "one another" commands require intentionality and active participation. Which of these commands (love, serve, greet, encourage, admonish, forgive, etc.) do you find most challenging to practice? Why? What is one practical way you can grow in this area this week?
13. The sermon mentions that empathy can be weakened by things like minimizing others' experiences or making quick comparisons. Are there any habits or phrases you use that might unintentionally shut down empathy? How can you be more mindful in your conversations this week?
14. Commitment is described as a two-way devotion, not a one-sided relationship. How can you take the initiative to build mutual commitment in your small group or church community? Is there someone you need to reach out to, encourage, or support more intentionally?
15. The sermon ends by saying that our interdependence, empathy, and commitment are a witness to the world. What is one way your group or church could show the heart of Christ to your neighborhood or city this month?