

A. The Church: One Body with MANY Different People & Giftings

Romans 12:4–5 (NIV) ⁴ For just as each of us has one body with many members, and these members do not all have the same function, ⁵ so in Christ we, though many, form one body, and each member belongs to all the others.

- TO understand the Family of God, also called the Church. Paul gives the analogy of our bodies!
- **Key Details on Human Anatomy: Bones (Adults):** 206; **Organ Count:** Roughly 78–79 (varies by definition); **Key Systems:** Composed of about 650 muscles, a complex skeletal system, and vital organs.
- Though different, each member is equally necessary for the Body to function properly.
- **For example**, if I cut off my hand, regardless of how well it works, it will not be able to function.

1 Corinthians 12:1–31 (ESV) ⁴ Now there are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit; ⁵ and there are varieties of service, but the same Lord; ⁶ and there are varieties of activities, but it is the same God who empowers them all in everyone. ⁷ To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good... ²⁵ that there may be no division in the body, but that the members may have the same care for one another. ²⁶ If one member suffers, all suffer together; if one member is honored, all rejoice together. ²⁷ Now you are the body of Christ and individually members of it.

- **Variety of GIFTS, SERVICE, ACTIVITIES – given by the SAME SPIRIT.**
- To EACH ONE is given a manifestation of the Spirit for the COMMON GOOD that the MEMBERS CARE for one another.

PROBLEM: The WESTERN church, Pastors often become the one-man show. (small group of people)

- **This leads to the assumption that the problem is the SIZE of the church;** big churches are impersonal. Because the Pastor can't meet with everyone individually.
- **IS THIS THE PROBLEM? For example**, I have had a few church leaders tell me the only thing we did positively was our worship. EVERYTHING else was bad. The answer? Split our church into HOUSE CHURCHES.
- **CONSIDER:** Does the size affect – sin? Character? Ppl being helped? Truth preached? People being disciplined? I would say, NO.

PICTURE 10 CHURCHES. Vs ONE CHURCH.

- Each church must preach the Word, worship, pray, etc., duplicating each other. X 10!
- **For example, Four Winds** – my job was MUCH easier because we were connected to the CHURCH
- **For example, Tobermory**, lead pastor, preached, led worship, Sunday school, and events!

Is my point that small churches are bad? **NO.** Size of the Church isn't the issue; Engagement in the church is.

- **"No one stands alone" → What if EVERYONE sought to make this a reality?**
- **"Each one, reach one" → What if EVERYONE prayed for, and poured into ONE person?**
- **"Serving & Ministering" → What if EVERYONE served & ministered to each other?**

1 Corinthians 12:12–26 (ESV) 12 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. 13 For in one Spirit we were all baptized into one body—Jews or Greeks, slaves or free—and all were made to drink of one Spirit. 14 For the body does not consist of one member but of many. 15 If the foot should say, “Because I am not a hand, I do not belong to the body,” that would not make it any less a part of the body. 16 And if the ear should say, “Because I am not an eye, I do not belong to the body,” that would not make it any less a part of the body. 17 If the whole body were an eye, where would be the sense of hearing? If the whole body were an ear, where would be the sense of smell? 18 But as it is, God arranged the members in the body, each one of them, as he chose. 19 If all were a single member, where would the body be? 20 As it is, there are many parts, yet one body

Church (sml or lrg) – requires each member, bone, organ, muscle and tendon, working together... UNIFIED in CHRIST & Empowered BY THE SPIRIT to fulfill the PURPOSE GOD HAS FOR US.

B. Church Structure: Everyone Works Together to Build up the Church (Body of Christ)

Ephesians 4:11–16 (ESV) 11 And he gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the shepherds and teachers, 12 to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ, 13 until we all attain to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to mature manhood, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ... Rather, speaking the truth in love, we are to grow up in every way into him who is the head, into Christ, 16 from whom the whole body, joined and held together by every joint with which it is equipped, when each part is working properly, makes the body grow so that it builds itself up in love.

Cruise ship → Battleship

Cruise Ship Success: entertainment, food, relaxation, quality of service

Battleship Success: everyone works together for the common good or goal of the mission

Southland: 2,500 people – including 500 online... we have such potential to both care for each other and transform our communities for Christ.

- **Southland** – major donor behind CRI, which is transforming 1000s of churches worldwide, F&CD, which helps 1000’s of people, Clothing Closet helps 1000s, CAMP helps 1000’s, MS – ministers to over 200 kids weekly, MANY from other churches, HSYN the same! And the list goes on...

We have 35 staff and 1000 other Ministers who volunteer to pull this off! And many other things.

THE BODY (regardless of size) ONLY WORKS WHEN ALL THE MEMBERS FUNCTION TOGETHER.

Craig Keener, “if 5% of the church works, the church only fulfills 5% of its mission.” REGARDLESS OF SIZE

Acts 6:1–6 (ESV) 1 Now in these days when the disciples were increasing in number, a complaint arose against the Hebrews because their widows were being neglected... And the twelve summoned the full number of the disciples and said, “It is not right that we should give up preaching the word of God to serve tables. 3 Therefore, brothers, pick out from among you seven men of good repute, full of the Spirit and of wisdom, whom we will appoint to this duty. 4 But we will devote ourselves to prayer and to the ministry of the word.”

PERFECT example in Scripture of the Church not being “one-man shows”. The ones leading were called to preach and pray. Then assign others to various tasks, such as ministry to widows & orphans.

For example, Stefan's job change: As my job has changed, I have had to give up lots! I LOVED meeting 1-on-1! It was my FAVORITE! Leading all the retreats! Seminars! Being boots on the ground in the weekday ministry of the church... oh man! Gave me LIFE. And I saw God work in powerful ways! **My role now?** Requires a lot of study & prayer! Plus leading staff, and solving problems that arise within our church.

I could NEVER do my job properly without YOU GUYS – we are ALL in this TOGETHER!

Southland Church FAMILY – weekends, weekdays & missions:

1. **Weekend Services: preaching the Word, worship & praying together, discipling kids & adults**
 - a. Greeters, ushers, PP, Audio/Video, set up, tear down, prayer ministers, singers, instruments, people to hold & care for babies, table leaders, and MORE.
 - b. E.g. You are already here! If you stayed to help with MS, it allows parents to engage! Etc.
2. **Weekdays: small groups, flock groups, young & old – meet to apply what we've been learning,**
 - a. **Small group leaders, Midweek, HSYN, Collective, Pillars, Connection, MPL, WOI, etc.**
 - b. You can be a part of a community that holds each other accountable, applies teaching from the weekend, cares for each other, etc.
 - c. **BUT, this requires work** – one LEADER can't do it either! We ALL have to look out for each other.
3. **MISSIONS:** Camp, Food & Clothing Drive, Clothing Closet, Pick up & Walk, Church Renewal – ALL require the BODY to work TOGETHER to accomplish!

NO ONE CAN DO EVERYTHING – the incarnate Jesus said it was BEST he leave, WHY? So the Spirit could come and EMPOWER a GLOBAL body!

C. Invitation: Be the Church – Get Involved in Building up the Body

Matthew 9:36–38 (ESV) ³⁶ When he saw the crowds, he had compassion for them, because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd. ³⁷ Then he said to his disciples, “The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few; ³⁸ therefore pray earnestly to the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into his harvest.”

This Invitation is to LIFE not DEATH: (contrary to what we often FEEL)

- **To discover our PURPOSE** → isn't it true that the most fulfilling times in our lives often come as we SERVE someone else? Better to GIVE than receive! YES!
- **To be a part of something BIGGER** → God's Grand Story!
- **To FIND BELONGING and COMMUNITY** → serving together is one of the BEST ways to build community with other believers!

Romans 5:6–8 (ESV) *For while we were still weak, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly. For one will scarcely die for a righteous person—though perhaps for a good person one would dare even to die— but God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.*

BECAUSE of His love for us, we LOVE Him in return! THIS is the heart behind WHY we SERVE!

1. **Pray:** Ask the Lord how you can build up the Body of Christ
2. **Serve:** Look for a need in the Church and see how you can meet that need
3. **Already Serving?** Remember WHY you are doing it ☺ *He loved, so we love!*
4. **Engage:** Get in a Small Group. **In a Small Group?** How can you serve the group?
5. **Time:** Is there anything you can subtract in order to give? E.g. media

“No one stands alone” kids, families, singles, seniors, sick, disabled. Let's take care of each other.