



THE LETTER TO THE ROMANS

Salvation by Grace Through Faith

IS IT OK TO BE DIFFERENT?

Excuse me!
Is it OK if I keep
my personality?



We often feel a
certain pressure
to be like
everyone else
but...

in church,
is it ok to be
different?

OUT OF THE MANY, ONE

Romans 12:3-5

³ For by the grace given to me I say to everyone among you **not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think**, but to think with sober judgment, each according to the measure of faith that God has assigned. ⁴ For as in one body we have many members, and the members do not all have the same function, ⁵ so **we, though many, are one body in Christ**, and individually members one of another.

UNITY IN DIVERSITY

One of the core values of the Christian faith is that, in Christ, there is **unity in diversity!**

Ephesians 2:13-14a (CEV)

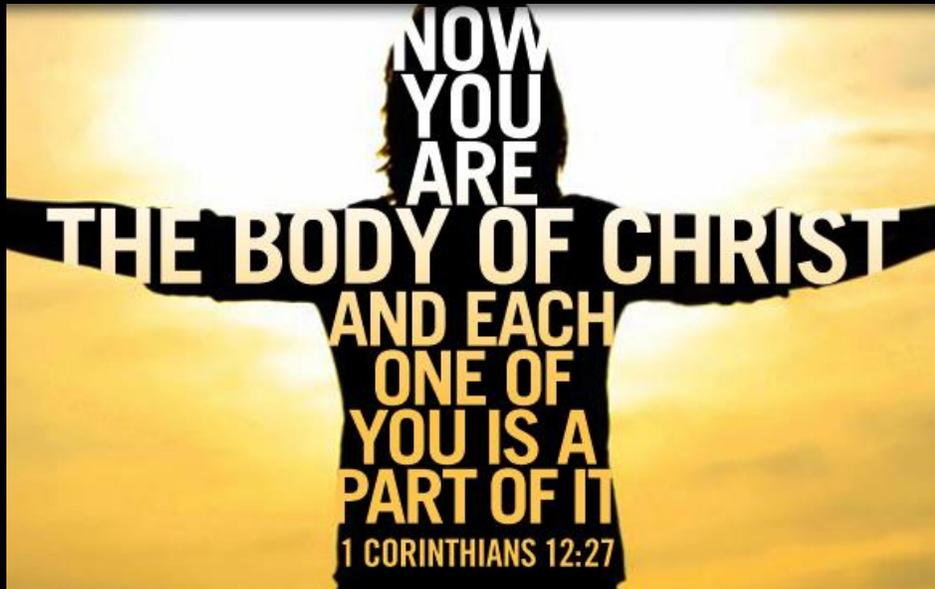
¹³ and you were far from God. But Christ offered his life's blood as a sacrifice and brought you near God. ¹⁴ Christ has made peace between Jews and Gentiles, and **he has united us by breaking down the wall of hatred that separated us.**

PEACE WITH GOD AND NEIGHBOR

One of the core values of the Christian faith is that, in Christ, there is **unity in diversity!**

Ephesians 2:16 (CEV)

¹⁶ On the cross Christ did away with our hatred for each other. He also **made peace between us and God by uniting Jews and Gentiles in one body.**



SIN DIVIDES, GRACE UNITES!

In Christ, our differences complement (make complete) each other!

Ephesians 2:16

²⁷ For as many of you as were baptized into Christ have put on Christ. ²⁸ There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, there is no male and female, for **you are all one in Christ Jesus.**



DIFFERENT GIFTS

Romans 12:6-8

⁶ God has also given each of us different gifts to use. If we can **prophesy**, we should do it according to the amount of faith we have. ⁷ If we can **serve** others, we should serve. If we can **teach**, we should teach. ⁸ If we can **encourage** others, we should encourage them. If we can **give**, we should be generous. If we are **leaders**, we should do our best. If we are **good to others**, we should do it cheerfully.

WE NEED EACH OTHER



1 Corinthians 12:18-20 (CEV)
18 But God has put all parts of our body together in the way that he decided is best. **19** **A body isn't really a body, unless there is more than one part.** **20** It takes many parts to make a single body.

DO WE EVER BREAK FELLOWSHIP?

Titus 3:10

As for a person who stirs up division, after warning him once and then twice, have **nothing** more **to do** with him,

In rare occasions, it may be necessary to break fellowship, as a way of preventing error and harm to the Body of Christ. This is like an amputation.



THE ARITHMETIC TEST

Here is how to test if a break in fellowship is justifies:



- Does it add to the Bible?
- Does it subtract from Jesus Christ?
- Does it multiply the requirements for salvation?
- Does it divide the body of Christ?



WORDS TO LIVE BY...

**“In essentials unity,
In non-essentials liberty,
And in all things charity.”**

TOGETHER WE ARE HIS BODY!

1 Corinthians 12:24b-27 (CEV)

God put our bodies together in such a way that even the parts that seem the least important are valuable. ²⁵ He did this to make all parts of the body work together smoothly, with each part caring about the others. ²⁶ If one part of our body hurts, we hurt all over. If one part of our body is honored, the whole body will be happy. ²⁷ **Together you are the body of Christ.** Each one of you is part of his body.

ONE BODY

Only together
can we
truly be
the body of
Christ!

WE ARE
THE BODY
OF CHRIST

