

Some Assembly Required

Week #4

Needy You—Some parts of the body are obviously important. Eyes and ears and arms and legs get lots of attention while other parts are ignored for years. But Paul saves the Church from arrogance and division by reminding those with obvious gifts of how much they need the less noticeable parts. Small parts of the brain help control those arms. Unseen mechanisms allow those beautiful eyes to see. This sermon is meant to raise awareness and appreciation as well as save our church from spiritual pride.

Am I **needy**, **needed**, or **neither**?

- 1 Corinthians 12:21-26 - *The eye cannot say to the hand, “I don’t need you!” And the head cannot say to the feet, “I don’t need you!” 22 On the contrary, those parts of the body that seem to be weaker are indispensable, 23 and the parts that we think are less honorable we treat with special honor. And the parts that are unpresentable are treated with special modesty, 24 while our presentable parts need no special treatment. But God has put the body together, giving greater honor to the parts that lacked it, 25 so that there should be no division in the body, but that its parts should have equal concern for each other. 26 If one part suffers, every part suffers with it; if one part is honored, every part rejoices with it.*

Every strength/talent/gift is...

...**needed & indispensable!**

...**worthy of honor!**

Romans 12:3-5 - *For by the grace given me I say to every one of you: Do not think of yourself more highly than you ought, but rather think of yourself with sober judgment, in accordance with the faith God has distributed to each of you. 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.*

Honestly, I **need** you! Thankfully, you **complete** me!

Points to Ponder

- 1) The world would say “don’t be a needy person”. God says you are a needy person as a part of the body of believers. Why is this important truth so vital for us as a church to understand? What are the implications for each of the following roots - Gather, Group, and Grow? What are the implications if we fail to understand this
- 2) Until there’s a rare disease or unexpected illness, the hidden parts of the body and their purpose (like the intestines, central nervous system, and chromosomes) often go unnoticed and are under-appreciated. God doesn’t want that to be the case for us as Christians. What gifts do you feel could easily go unappreciated and unacknowledged by the church? Why is that so easy to do? What can we do as a church to make sure they receive the honor they are deserving of?
- 3) Which side of the gifts/talents/strengths are you on - the person on the stage or behind the scenes? Once you have identified that, think of ways in which you can make sure the people who are unlike you know you appreciate them. Before the end of this series make an intentional effort to pray specifically for them and let them know they are appreciated.

Homework: 1 Corinthians 13