

## Connect with One Another

1 Corinthians 12:18-27

### Introduction

The human body is the primary illustration in the New Testament of the body of Christ. Just like you have one human body made up of many different parts doing many different things, so the body of Christ is one organism made of many different people serving and supporting each other in many different ways. The very nature of God illustrates the same point. God has never been alone. He lives in eternal connectedness. The Godhead - the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit - functions as one. In the same way, Christians need connectivity in order to properly function as one body. Connection is necessary for life and the building up of the body of Christ.

### Getting Started

1. Share one point that resonated with you from this week's sermon.
2. Where are you connected at OCBF? Tell your group about the ministry in which you serve, a group of which you're a part, or any other way in which you are or have been connected?

### Let's Get Personal

1. When we are connected to the body of Christ, we receive the added benefit of experiencing community and relationship in the same way God Himself enjoys connection within the Trinity. Have you experienced the benefits of living in community with other believers? Share your experience with your group.
2. God has constructed the body so that every part is necessary. Even the hidden parts, the parts you don't see, are necessary for life to be sustained. What parts of our church body do you think are "hidden", but are especially vital to the healthy function of our church?
3. Everyone doesn't have equal responsibility, but everyone is equally necessary. You are essential. Think about the important value you bring to the body of Christ. What are the unique gifts, talents and abilities God has given you to benefit His church?

### Take the Next Step

1. The church is not a place for people who want to be celebrities. It's a place where we recognize and value who and what we are is by the grace of God. Then we move forward, walking in God's grace to benefit one another. The church is a body where its members are connected and available to each other. Were you convicted by Sunday's message to connect or reconnect? If so, tell your group about it. Where do you feel God calling you to connect with another person or group within our church?
2. 1 Corinthians 12:27 says, "If one member suffers, all the members suffer with it. If one member is honored, all the members rejoice with it." Connection leads to caring for one another. Do you sense God's guiding you to make a special effort to reach out and support, encourage, and/or care for another brother or sister in Christ?

### Renew Your Mind

*For even as the body is one and yet has many members, and all the members of the body, though they are many, are one body, so also is Christ. - 1 Corinthians 12:12*