

## ULC Sermon Study Resource

*Non-Negotiables // I/We*

*Pastor Gabe*

*January 8, 2023*

**Prayer:** Pause for a few moments to go to the Lord in prayer. Ask that He would draw near to you in this time, and open your heart and mind to hear His Word.

**Icebreaker:** If you could eliminate one thing from your daily routine, what would it be and why?

**Reading:** 1 Corinthians 12:12-27

### Outline:

#### I. I (v. 12-13)

- A. The church of Corinth, to whom Paul is writing to, had members who began to think they were more special than other members for the gifts and talents they had. However, Paul uses the image of the body to remind them that no one part of the body is more special than the other. Paul is saying you, the individual, are a member of the body of Christ.
- B. "Each of us is a *poiēma*, Paul tells us: a unique, original, one-off work of art precisely because only this 'I' with this history could be the self God can use this way. Because of my past, God's renewing Spirit can birth in me insights, empathy, attention that are exactly what someone needs in this world." - Jamie Smith

**Q: *Have you ever felt like an unimportant part of the church body?***

#### II. We (v. 25-26)

- A. Paul says we are all individually members, but we are also all members of the same body. We are inherently connected to each other. Because we're all inherently connected, we all have to do our part in the church for it to work the way it's intended to work.
- B. We, the church, are not complete without you, and we cannot follow Jesus alone. We walk together. "It makes as much sense to be a lone Christian as it does to be a lone boy scout."  
-Pastor Gabe

**Q: *Why doesn't it make sense to be a "lone Christian"?***

#### III. I/We (v. 27)

- A. By just existing as we are, we are each individually a member of the body of Christ. We don't have to worry about "keeping it together" all of the time to stay in. Through the grace of God and salvation through Jesus, we just *are* a part of Christ's body.
- B. What brings us together is the cross of Christ. What brings us together is our mutual need for a savior. This means we get to walk together with joy. "Joy is the experience of being with someone who wants to be with you." - Will Cannon

**Q: *When has someone in the church walked with you when you needed it?***

### Reflection/Application Questions:

- 1) How do we find and recognize our gifts and talents as a member of Christ's body?
- 2) How do we encourage others to do their part in the church in a loving manner?
- 3) How do we help others do their part in the church if the church has hurt them before?
- 4) How can we remind ourselves that we are a part of Christ's body, by simply existing as we are?

### Suggestions for further study:

- Colossians 1:24 Q: How does language of the body in this verse remind us of Christ's suffering?
- Ephesians 4:15-16 Q: How do these verses show us how to encourage other church body members?

### Closing Prayer:

Dear God, thank you for allowing us to be part of Christ's body through the grace we have received through Jesus's death. Help us to remember that each one of us is as important as other church members. Amen.