Messy Grace **– wk 20 – Made for This**

**Corinthians written by the Apostle Paul to a church he planted 5 yrs earlier. Weird stuff was getting back to him. A challenge to grow up!**

**1 Corinthians 12-14 – they were being divisive and arrogance – placing themselves over others and not thinking of the part they play together.**

**Today I want to end the GIFTED section with a rewind to a section we skipped I was saving for today – in 1 Cor 12**

**Corinth where no one was raised in a Christian home / culture - 1st gen.**

**If they were in need – there was no help. If they were sick, they would go to the temple of Asclepius, god of healing / medicine (Pics) and offer a leg, arm, foot, foot, sexual organs, even brains for healing. Bought at local shops – offered then taken home to pray with. Paul used this as a connection point.**

**1 Cor 12:12 Just as a body, though one, has many parts, but all its many parts form one body, so it is with Christ. 13 For we were all baptized by one Spirit so as to form one body (all were baptized into a family - Aug 11) - whether Jews or Gentiles, slave or free—and we were all given the one Spirit to drink. (issues with elitism, segregation, arrogance – we are now ONE!) 14 Even so the body is not made up of one part but of many. (we are to have unity and great diversity!)**

**ONE body – with different parts - roles (1 Cor 10:17, Eph 4:12, Ro 12:4-5)**

**One of the great titles of the people of God = the body of Jesus Christ.**

**We are one in Christ, but uniquely different**

**Like a symphony – together it swells, build, and is beautiful. Can you name what you hear? Like a great band! Seamless.**

**There are not supposed to be any Lone Rangers in Christianity**

**1 Cor 12:15 Now if the foot should say, “Because I am not a hand, I do not belong to the body,” it would not for that reason stop being part of the body. 16 And if the ear should say, “Because I am not an eye, I do not belong to the body,” it would not for that reason stop being part of the body. 17 If the whole body were an eye, where would the sense of hearing be? If the whole body were an ear, where would the sense of smell be?**

**A body of nothing but eyes – ears – all feet – all hands… bizarre! (Possible pic) That is what we often want – people just like us – but when you do – it is just freaky…**

**\*\*\* We each have a part – a role to play in the body of Jesus.**

**1 Cor 12:18 But in fact God has placed the parts in the body, every one of them, just as he wanted them to be. *(as he pleased)* 19 If they were all one part, where would the body be? 20 As it is, there are many parts, but one body. (this part of God plan for us all to be diff parts.) 1 Cor 12:11 - All these are the work of one and the same Spirit, and he gives them to each one, just as he determines.**

**ONE body – God chooses our part**

**We don’t choose our gifts, role, abilities, or part in the body. God does.**

**God designed you and gifted you for your role in the body.**

**When I was in school band. Kids who wanted to play the drums, okay… but they have no rhythm. The band teacher picks their best instrument.**

**The Father knows best – he designed you. (Ephesians 4:7)**

**1 Cor 12:21 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, (parts of our body that you don’t see – organs – but are essential – can anyone describe what our sound man or media person looks like? But you see / hear this because of him) 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. (we are not to exclude anyone)**

**ONE body – Every part is important**

**There is not an A list and B list. Every team has a position – no such thing has a small player people – just small-minded people.**

**You’re not one in a million – you are one of a kind!**

**We’re all made and wired by God differently – on purpose**

**Psalm 139:13-16 “God, You created my inmost being; you knit me together in my mother's womb. I praise you because I am fearfully and wonderfully made; your works are wonderful, I know that full well…All the days ordained for me were written in your book before one of them came to be.” (Not just by our ethnicity, backgrounds, or styles… You are shaped by God – unique and wonderfully complex. We are different – but together)**

**Some think of themselves as average w/ have nothing to give. Devil says, “you don’t matter” Listen - You are vital! The enemy attacks & discourages. We need to learn to affirm each other!**

**1 Cor 12 compares us to a physical body. Think about your hand – you don’t have to create unity for your hand. You are born together. It just grew together. It’s not sown together, unless your Frankenstein. Your mom growing up did not tell you - you need to keep your hand together (it was natural) - But she might have said to watch your fingers – keep the unity… or it might get shut in a door or sawed off. In the same way we are born into this body, growing together, it should be natural. Every part helping each other.**

**Jesus is the head of the body - Think about this, your elbow itches. So, it sends a little message to your brain: “I itch!” What does your brain do? Sends down a message to your fingers, “go scratch.” What scratched you, the brain or the finger? Brain thru the finger. How does God do His work in our life? Thru His body – thru you. It does not say, I don’t wanna!**

**1 Cor 12:26 If one part suffers, every part suffers with it; if one part is honored, every part rejoices with it.**

**Ever stub your toe? What happens? All hands on deck to the foot!!!! I need the eyes, ear drums, mouth, hands. We learn how important our intestines are when… our pancreas… stomach.**

**We need each other! Everyone is necessary.**

**Turn to neighbor – say, “we need you.”**

**Hands - How many here are extroverts? How many introverts?**

**Hugger or pusher (push away)/ Worship demonstrative or reserved**

**Vacation, busy or secluded / Interests: Sports, cooking, techy, music, handy, talking, smart. Every person can be a 10 at something**

**In God’s design everybody has something; but nobody has everything.**

**1 Cor 12:4 There are different kinds of gifts, but the same Spirit distributes them. 5 There are different kinds of service, but the same Lord. 6 There are different kinds of working, but in all of them and in everyone it is the same God at work. (Embrace your uniqueness) 7 Now to each one the manifestation of the Spirit is given for the common good. (for the common good of the body)**

**ONE body – every part is to participate**

**We are to use our gifts for the body! We are to use them in the church**

**Well, I use my gifts in life – at work, school, home. The primary reason you have that gifts is - “For the common good of the body” - to building up the body of Jesus” = local church.**

**No spectators in the body of Christ - we come to participate.**

**When I run my heart does not take a nap, feet don’t check out, mouth does not take a break - we work together to get there!**

**Guests you do not need participate/ but, if you are a part of this body. We come to church w/ something to offer (1 Cor 14:26)**

**1 Peter 2:9 - says that if you are a Christian you are a minister / a priest. Believe it or not.**

**Let’s take a walk back in time:**

**OT – God worked through the order of priests and select people**

**NT – God sets up a new order - we are all priests empowered by the HS**

**IN the NT – we are all ministers – called to pick up a serving towel and live beyond ourselves. Everyone doing their part.**

**In NT a handful of church leaders who are paid – for the purpose of teaching, equipping, and training the saints for the work of ministry.**

**Ephesians 4:11 So Christ himself gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the pastors and teachers, 12 to equip his people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up 13 until we all reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of the Son of God and become mature, attaining to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ.**

* **Over time more are hired and more – and more – as more are paid the rest began to passively sit on the sidelines and watch.**
* **By the 1500’s church was run by minsters / clergy the rest watched**
* **Still today 2 groups of people. Minster & member – It’s not biblical.**

**Most churches struggle to be influential – there is just so much that a few people can do. Small churches cannot afford to hire enough to do all the expected work.**

**Imagine – 200 players on the bench and 3-4 on the field and the bench is yelling what they need to do better or more of. = that is often church today. This is not what God has in mind.**

**Come w/ your spirit ready to worship- ready to share what God has on your heart- ready to serve each other- ready to grow & be encouraged.**

**1 Peter 4:10 Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God’s grace in its various forms. 11 If anyone speaks, they should do so as one who speaks the very words of God. If anyone serves, they should do so with the strength God provides, so that in all things God may be praised through Jesus Christ. To him be the glory and the power for ever and ever. Amen. (we have these gifts and parts for God’s glory)**

**I don’t have greater access to God than you if you are a true follower of Jesus. I am just using my gift – we are all ministers.**

**The Spirit of God is here not because of the band, the right songs, or a good sermon – the Spirit of God is here because He comes with you. When we get together God is here!!!**

**1 Cor 12:27 Now you are the body of Christ, and each one of you is a part of it. *(You are the body, and members individually* - we are a body and we are individuals – we are not clones, look or act the same) 28 And God has placed in the church first of all apostles, second prophets, third teachers, then miracles, then gifts of healing, of helping, of guidance, and of different kinds of tongues. (All parts are essential and important – some parts are more prominent.) 29 Are all apostles? Are all prophets? Are all teachers? Do all work miracles? 30 Do we all have gifts of healing? Do all speak in tongues? Do all interpret? (rhetorical – no, we are not all the same)**

**ONE body – We are to be thankful for our part**

**It all comes down to being thankful for your part and quit the comparison game – it will render you powerless!**

**Paul Lays Out - Three Comparison Game Dangers:**

**Three things that can sabotage ourselves and our church**

**1. Gift Envy – “I wish I had your part”**

**I wish I had a diff gift – their gift – tat part. This feeling will only leave you feeling insecure and unconfident.**

**We undermine God’s design for the body when we wish we were another part. It tears at relationships and dishonors God.**

**2. Gift elevation – “my part if better than yours”**

**I am better than you. You can’t do this without me - or - you’re not worthy of my time, gifts, energy…**

**Paul says over and over – no, you’re not better than anyone.**

**3. Gift projection – “you should be like me”**

**We have a bias towards our gift – and feel like our part is where real ministry happens - serving, music, teaching, mercy gifts, evangelism –each thinking we are never doing enough for their area.**

**Romans 12:3 …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, (parts) 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. 6 We have different gifts, according to the grace given to each of us… (your just part)**

**Paul says we might not see all the parts, (a watch) but all are needed! There’s not only diversity in the body, but also inter-dependency.**

**Comparison is a Cancer - It does not work w/ the body, but against it. Cancer lives only to serve itself. Sucking nutrients, energy, attention, & health. It does not contribute - it only takes. Everything it gets it uses to feed itself. If you are part of the body - don’t be a cancer.**

**We can do together what none of us can do on our own**

**When we get this - people’s lives are changed and our life is changed!! Mission trips – working together – every part – we are making a difference and our life is changed!!**

**Discovering your part – Ask Yourself?**

* **What do you enjoy?**
* **What come naturally?**
* **What succeeds when you do it?**
* **What do others tell you that you do well?**
* **If you’re still figuring it out – do something!**

**Serve in an area of your greatest ability or**

**Serve in an area of greatest need - Be willing to help wherever needed**

**Don’t just show up, grow up and sign up- find a place to serve. Greeters are in need, Kidventure, youth, sound, media, band, life Team, small group leaders, outreach – coffee bar coming.**

**Stop sitting on the sidelines - take your baby bib off – get up from you’re your little nap – put your big kid pants on. Stop complaining that your needs are not met and be the part that meets the need or fixes it. Let’s grow up together! Use your connection card today. (DL today)**

**Your part matters – your gift matters – use it in the body!**

**Love the joy it brings and fruit of your part.**

**Look at the amazing results - Eph 4:16 From him (Jesus) the whole body, joined and held together by every supporting ligament, (together – as a body) grows and builds itself up in love, as each part does its work.**

**When we knit together and find our place in the body together – when we each do our part - we grow and build each other up!**

**I hope you get convinced of 2 things today.**

**We will do better with you – and**

**You will do better with us**

**Some of you today are the stubbed toe – all hands on deck – we are here for you! You are loved and we care for you!!! Help us to know how we can love and serve you.**