

## What the World Needs Now #1

### *Scripture and Background Information for May 16-22.*

To prepare for your group discussion each week, group members should use the **Community Group Discussion Guide** to complete the **GOD'S WORDS** and **MY WORDS** columns using the scripture below.

This week, we launch our new series, "*What the World Needs Now.*" With this series we will look at how a church can make a difference in our world and impact it for God's sake. Today we will look at **1Corinthians 12:12-27**.

#### **Background for 1 Corinthians 12:12-27**

The letter of *1 Corinthians* is written to a church in crisis. Core to their problems was a deep rooted division in the church over almost everything. Paul wrote the letter to address these problems with a gospel-focused solution meant to bring about unity. Our text is part of Paul's dealing with issues related to church gatherings.

In 1Cor 12:12-27, Paul uses a metaphor to describe the church as a "body." Here, he emphasizes the unity of the body, despite its diversity. Paul paints the picture of the body, showing how the individual parts function for the whole body's good. Note how Paul connects the individual body parts to individual members of the congregation, who build up the body together. The human body contains a diversity of individual components. Paul emphasizes the necessity of diversity of the church. In diversity, all different parts of the body depend on each other. The lack of the participation of individual parts leads to a disfunction of the whole body. As a result, the unity of the body is made stronger and better due to its diversity.

Questions to engage with the text:

1. When reading 1Cor 12, what are the different types of diversity that Paul points out? How do we naturally view diversity in our world? How does that contrast with Paul's instructions about the value of diversity within the church?
2. Paul sees the church as the body of Christ. Paul seems to be emphasizing our dependence upon one another through this metaphor. If that is the case, what does that mean for the person who tries to live a part from the church? What would they be missing?
3. How can we live out our belief in the gospel in connection to the church as the body of Christ? How can "unity in diversity" serve the cause of Christ?

*Note: As a member of the **Body of Christ**, it is not only important for you to go to church, but it is also important for the church that you are there! The church as a body, functions through "giving and taking," in a dependent relationship. Thus, it is vital for the whole body, that every member serves with the God-given gift for the upbringing of the whole body! How can you be a part for the good of the body?*

#### **Scriptures for upcoming weeks:**

May 23-29

1Cor 13

May 30-June 05

1Cor 14