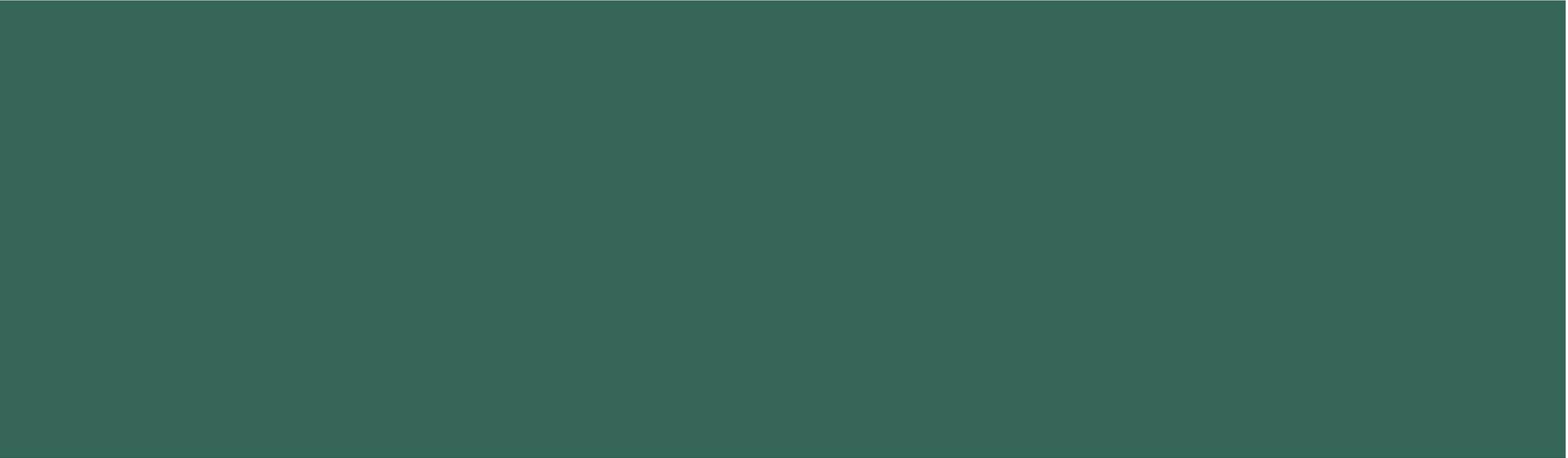




GOD HAS PUT THE BODY TOGETHER

I CORINTHIANS 12:4-27



4-6 DIFFERENT GIFTS, SAME SPIRIT

Now there are different gifts, but the same Spirit. There are different ministries, but the same Lord. And there are different activities, but the same God produces each gift in each person.

7-10 FOR THE COMMON GOOD

A manifestation of the Spirit is given to each person for the common good: to one is given a message of wisdom through the Spirit, to another, a message of knowledge by the same Spirit, to another, faith by the same Spirit, to another, gifts of healing by the one Spirit, to another, the performing of miracles, to another, prophecy, to another, distinguishing between spirits, to another, different kinds of tongues, to another, interpretation of tongues.

11 ACCORDING TO THE SPIRIT'S WILL

One and the same Spirit is active in all these, distributing to each person as he wills.

(12-14) THE BODY IS ONE AND MANY

For just as the body is one and has many parts, and all the parts of that body, though many, are one body—so also is Christ. For we were all baptized by one Spirit into one body—whether Jews or Greeks, whether slaves or free—and we were all given one Spirit to drink. Indeed, the body is not one part but many.

15-17 THE BODY NEEDS THE BODY

If the foot should say, “Because I’m not a hand, I don’t belong to the body,” it is not for that reason any less a part of the body. And if the ear should say, “Because I’m not an eye, I don’t belong to the body,” it is not for that reason any less a part of the body. If the whole body were an eye, where would the hearing be? If the whole body were an ear, where would the sense of smell be?

18-21 THE BODY NEEDS THE BODY

But as it is, God has arranged each one of the parts in the body just as he wanted. And if they were all the same part, where would the body be? As it is, there are many parts, but one body. The eye cannot say to the hand, “I don’t need you!” Or again, the head can’t say to the feet, “I don’t need you!”

22-24 HONOR AND USEFULNESS FOR ALL

On the contrary, those parts of the body that are weaker are indispensable. And those parts of the body that we consider less honorable, we clothe these with greater honor, and our unrespectable parts are treated with greater respect, which our respectable parts do not need.

24-26 UPSIDE-DOWN HONOR FOR A PURPOSE

Instead, God has put the body together, giving greater honor to the less honorable, so that there would be no division in the body, but that the members would have the same concern for each other. So if one member suffers, all the members suffer with it; if one member is honored, all the members rejoice with it.

Scary for a reason:
#WorldSepsisDay

27 THE ILLUSTRATION, SPELLED OUT

Now you are the body of Christ, and individual members of it.

CONCLUSION:

- One Spirit gives different gifts for the common good, according to his will.
- The Body Is one **AND** many
- The Body needs the Body



HOW DO WE LIVE IT OUT?

- Am I exercising my gifts?
- How do we as a church give greater honor to the uncomely parts?
- Does everyone have the opportunity to exercise their gifts at Grace?
- What about in the family – your spouse and children?