

COMMUNITY OF BELIEVERS

1 CORINTHIANS 1:10-12, 3:5-8, 12:14-20

LEARN THE WORD

Ephesians 4:4-6

There is one body and one Spirit—just as you were called to the one hope that belongs to your call—one Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God and Father of all, who is over all and through all and in all.

- When the church at Corinth was quarreling about following different teachers, Paul wrote to encourage unity.
- Paul said believers are all part of the body of Christ—many members but one body—and should use their gifts to love and serve one another in church.

WHAT YOU HEARD IN THE WORD

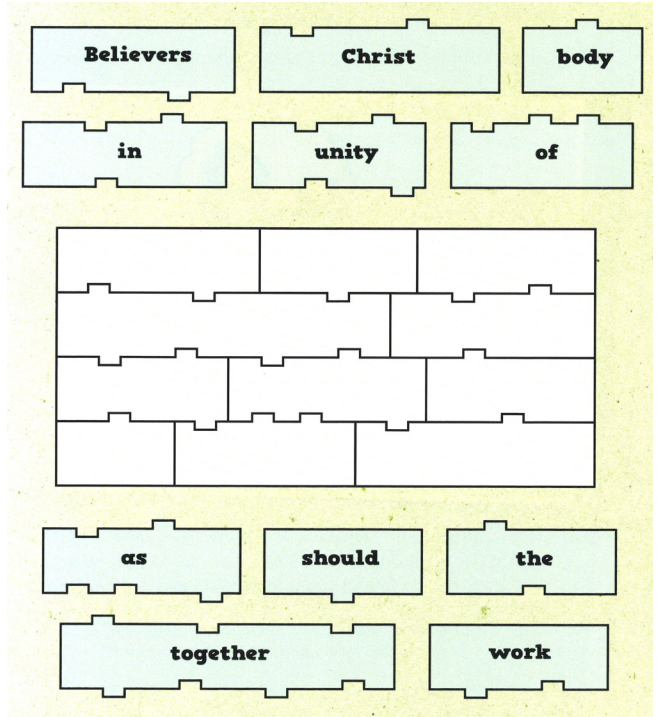
OUTWORD FOR FAMILY DISCUSSION

Suppose your Christian friend said he is quitting Kids Club because he wasn't chosen to be one of the helpers. He doesn't think the new kids should've been chosen over him, and his friends agree. They may all stop coming.

What could you say?

That's good that you wanted to be one of the helpers, but I don't think you or your friends should leave over this. We don't want to have the same problem as the Corinthian church in our Kids Club! The Apostle Paul had to write to the Corinthians to tell them not to be divided, quarreling, or jealous over things like this in the church. He described the church as a body with different parts that have different roles, but all are important for the body to work. You may not be a helper right now, but God may have another area where He wants you to serve, or He may want you to support others as they serve. You can set a good example for your friends by being happy for the new kid who was chosen to help. The important thing is to remember that we are all one. Jesus wants us to be united and love one another.

Activity: Paul reminded the Corinthian church to work together as one. Write the words in each matching puzzle piece to complete the puzzle.



HOMEWORDB FOR PARENTS

While serving in Ephesus during his third missionary journey, Paul received word that the church he had established in Corinth was struggling. The Corinthian Christians had fallen under the worldly influences around them. Paul wrote several letters to the Corinthians, two of which have been preserved in the canon of Scripture.

First, Paul addressed the division that had arisen in the church. They were forming groups based on which teacher they preferred. Paul corrected them, calling them to unity (1 Corinthians 1:10) and explaining that the teachers are nothing other than preachers of Christ. It was not Paul or Apollos or Cephas (Peter) that was crucified for their sins; it was Jesus Christ (1 Corinthians 1:12-13). He explained that it is the cross of Christ that has power unto salvation (1 Corinthians 1:18-31). He also indicated that their failures were based on their worldly focus (1 Corinthians 3:1-4), a theme that continues throughout both letters.

Paul then turned to some practical instructions, answering questions they had sent him and addressing issues that had been reported to him. Underlying all the practical instruction Paul gave the Corinthians is the analogy of the church as the body of Christ (1 Corinthians 12:12-31). The church is a community of believers, each with individual roles and abilities. But each member serves a purpose in the greater unit. We are given spiritual gifts for the purpose of edifying the body. We are to be generous for the sake of the body. We are to faithfully fulfill our role, no matter how seemingly insignificant, because every member is vital to the health and growth of the body. Paul called the Corinthians, and all believers, to be unified.