



1 CORINTHIANS

Which Part Are You?

1 Corinthians 12:12-26, 13:1-3

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1 Corinthians 12:1

Now concerning spiritual gifts, brothers, I do not want you to be uninformed.

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Supporting References

1 Corinthians 7:1

Now concerning the matters about which you wrote: “It is good for a man not to have sexual relations with a woman.”

1 Corinthians 8:1

Now concerning food offered to idols: we know that “all of us possess knowledge.” This “knowledge” puffs up, but love builds up.

1 Corinthians 16:1

Now concerning the collection for the saints: as I directed the churches of Galatia, so you also are to do.

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1 Corinthians 12:1

Now concerning spiritual gifts, brothers, **I do not want you to be uninformed.**

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1 Corinthians 12:4-6

Now there are varieties of gifts, but the **same Spirit**; and there are varieties of service, but the **same Lord**; and there are varieties of activities, but it is the **same God** who empowers them all in everyone.

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**Glimpse of God's intended unity
for the Church**

Old Testament Reference

Exodus 36:1

“Bezalel and Oholiab and every craftsman in whom the Lord has put skill and intelligence to know how to do any work in the construction of the sanctuary shall work in accordance with all that the Lord has commanded.”

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**He is the same God today that wants to
bless us with different giftings to build
up the church according to His plans**

Paul is addressing the people as a church; and not as individuals.



1 Corinthians 12:12-13

Just as a body, though one, has many parts, but all its many parts form one body, so it is with Christ. For we were all baptized by one Spirit so as to form one body—whether Jews or Gentiles, slave or free—and we were all given the one Spirit to drink.

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1 Corinthians 12:14

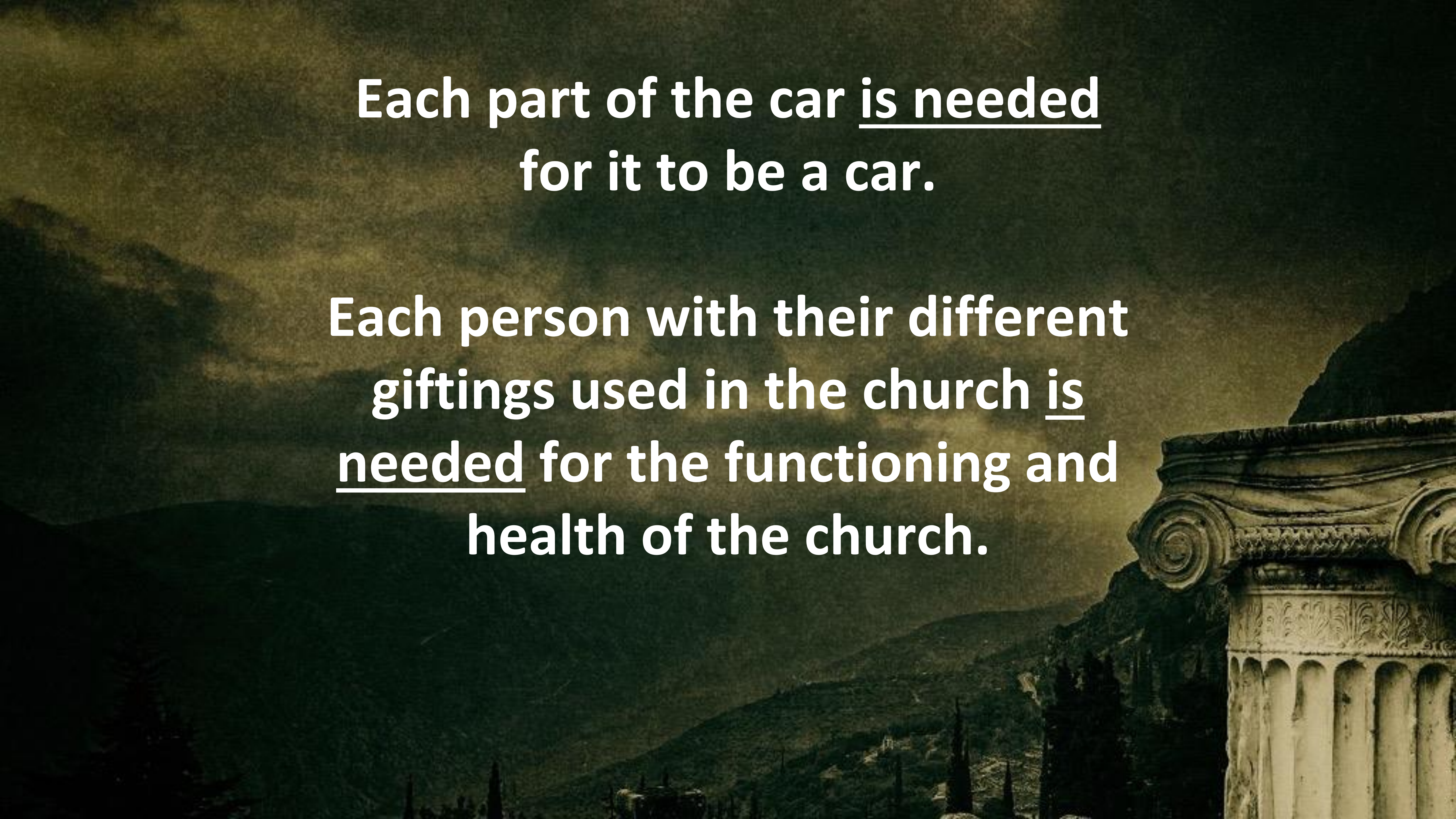
Even so the body is not made up of one part but of many.



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What good is a car if:

- **It has no headlights and brakes?**
- **It has no wheels?**
- **It has no steering wheel?**

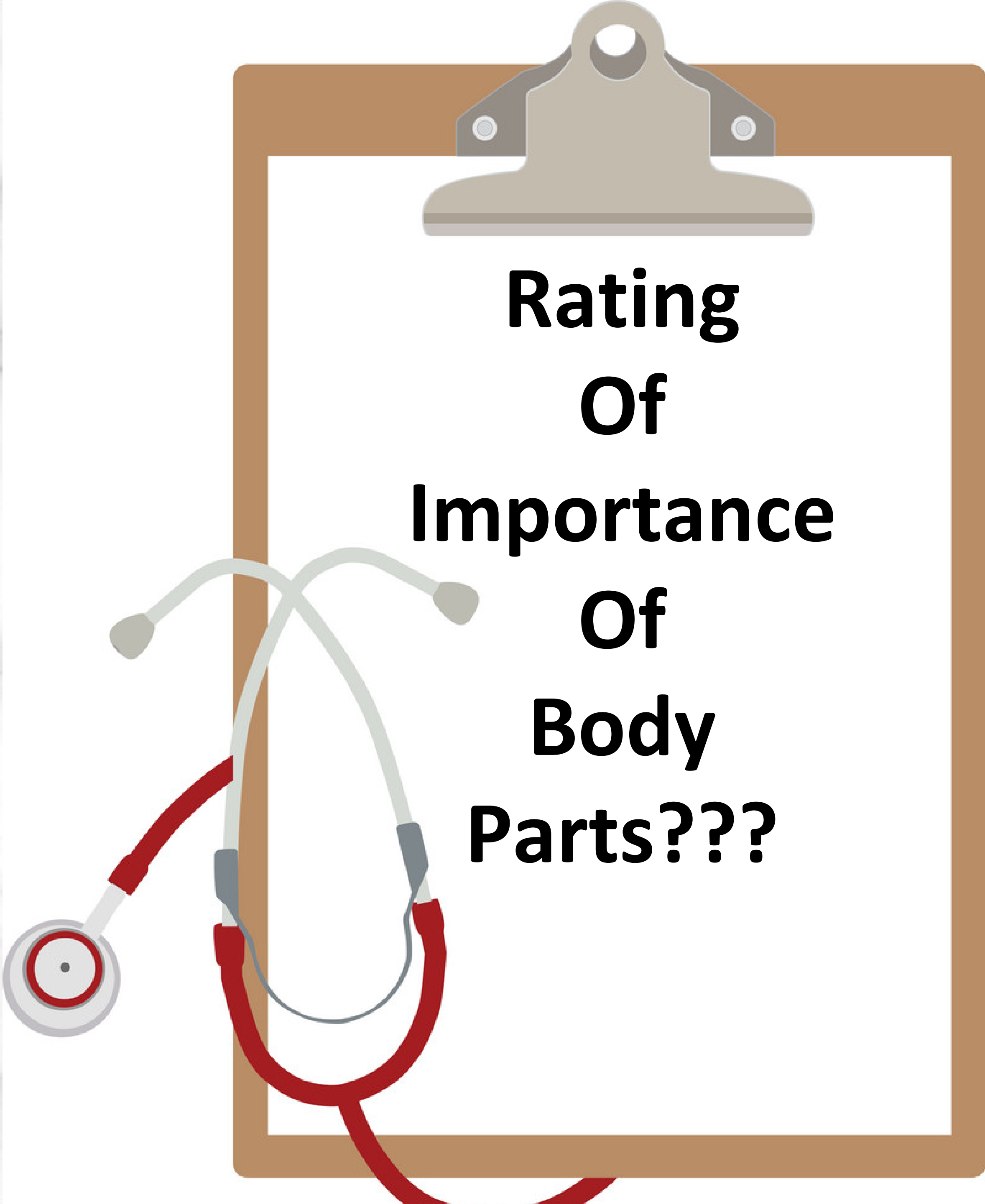
The background of the image is a dark, atmospheric landscape. In the foreground on the right, there is a classical building with a prominent column and a decorative capital. The rest of the image shows rolling hills and mountains under a dark, cloudy sky. The text is overlaid in white, bold font.

Each part of the car is needed
for it to be a car.

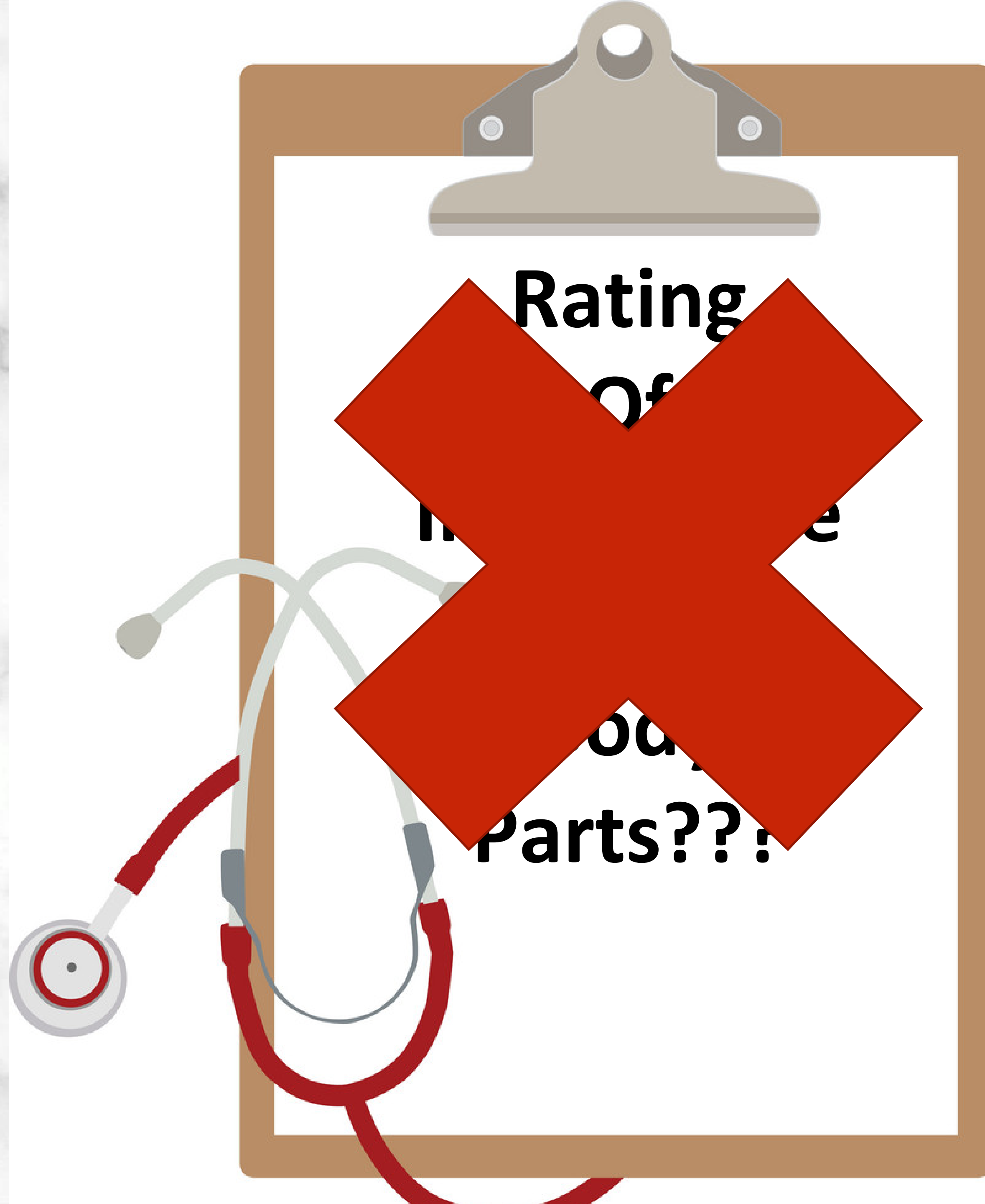
Each person with their different
giftings used in the church is
needed for the functioning and
health of the church.

1 Corinthians 12:15-16

If the foot should say, “Because I am not a hand, I do not belong to the body,” that would not make it any less a part of the body. And if the ear should say, “Because I am not an eye, I do not belong to the body,” that would not make it any less a part of the body.

A graphic illustration of a clipboard with a brown frame and a silver clip at the top. A red stethoscope is draped over the left side of the clipboard. The background is a light gray and white marbled pattern.

**Rating
Of
Importance
Of
Body
Parts???**



Rating

Of

Parts??!

Of

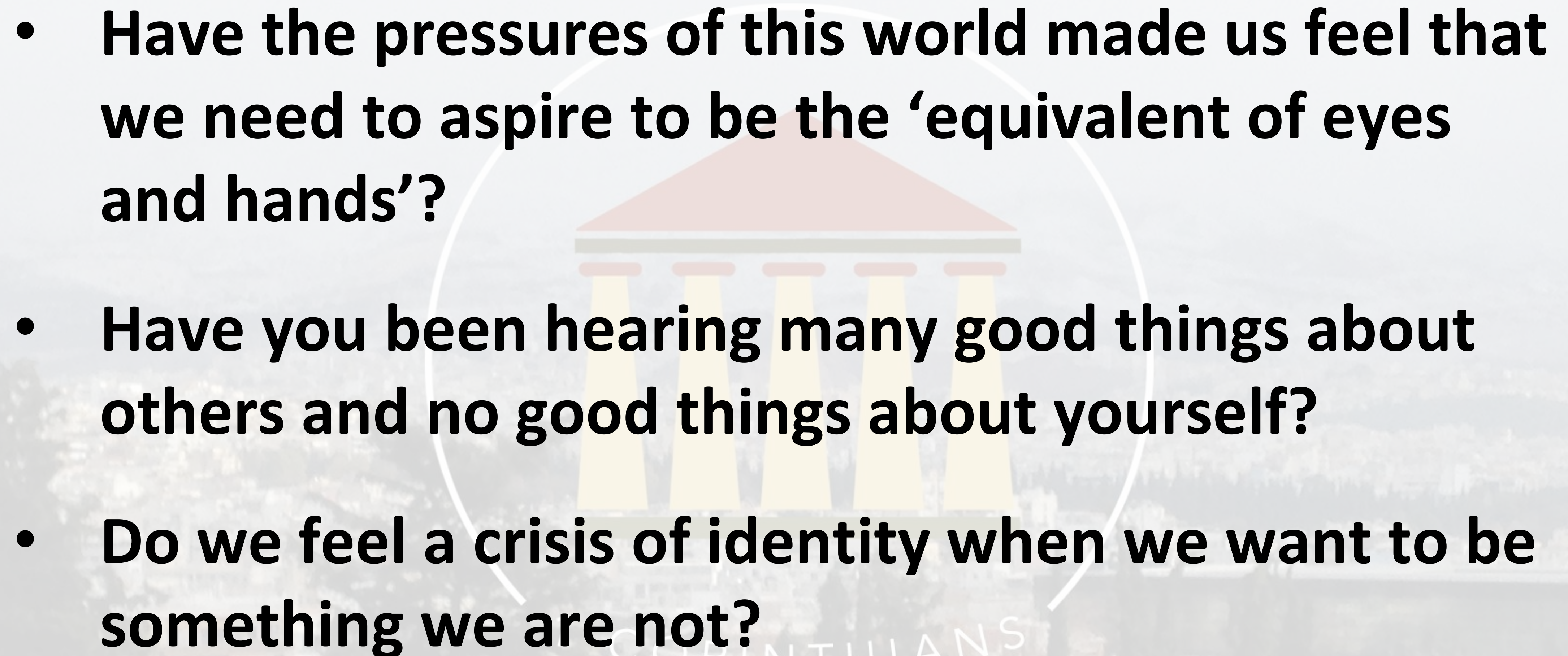
Parts??!

**And if the ear should say,
“Because I am not an eye,
I do not belong to the body,”
that would not make it any less
a part of the body.**

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Quote:

“Ears that constantly hear someone say how beautiful the eyes are can easily get the idea that they are unimportant, and the eyes can easily get the idea that they are all-important.”

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- **Have the pressures of this world made us feel that we need to aspire to be the ‘equivalent of eyes and hands’?**
 - **Have you been hearing many good things about others and no good things about yourself?**
 - **Do we feel a crisis of identity when we want to be something we are not?**

The world may tell us:

**“You are not in a top school in Singapore.
Not good enough!”**

**“You are not working in a job with a high salary.
Not good enough!”**

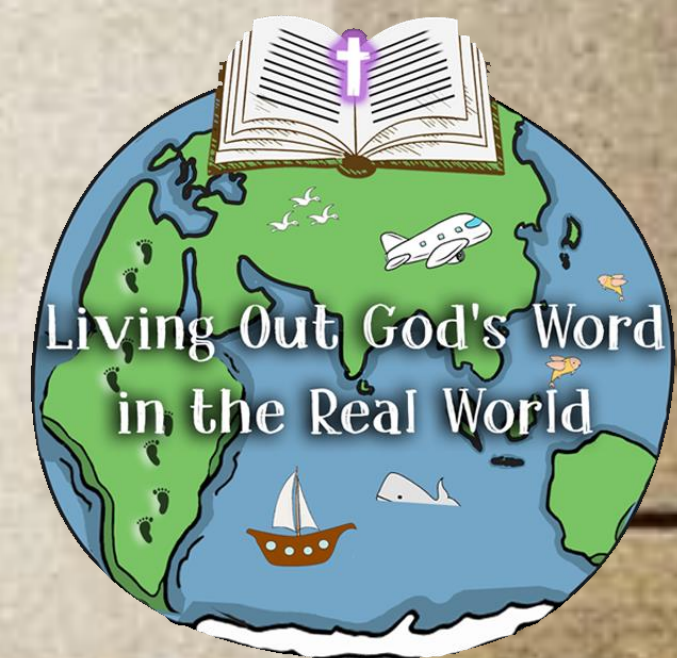
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Living Out God's Word
in the Real World



Understanding that God is the one who provides these gifts **frees us** from the dangerous place of unhealthy comparison with others.



1 Corinthians 12:17

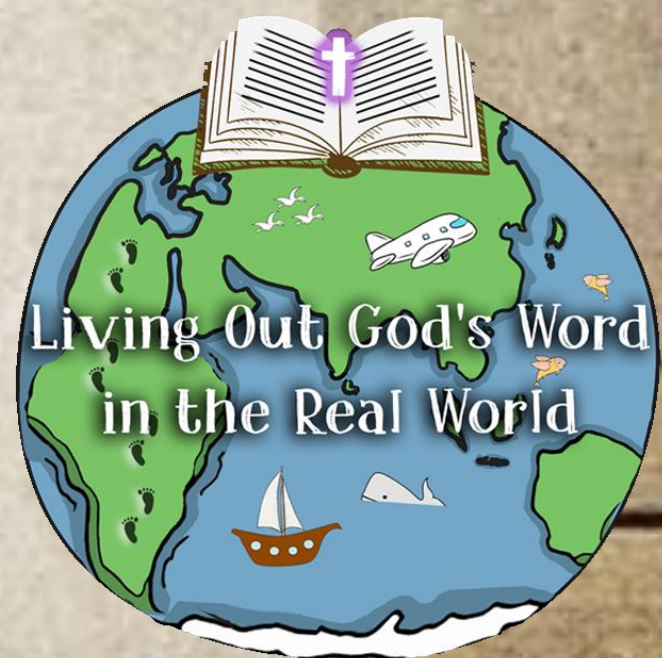
If the whole body were an eye, where would be the sense of hearing? If the whole body were an ear, where would be the sense of smell?

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**There is no need to envy someone else.
There is no need to belittle someone else.**

**Different giftings encourage
reliance on one another.**

Overall, there should be a **full reliance
on Christ in all we do.**



“I’m going to start serving soon.”

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1 Corinthians 12:18-20

But as it is, God arranged the members in the body, each one of them, as he chose. If all were a single member, where would the body be? As it is, there are many parts, yet one body.

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1 Corinthians 12:18 (NIV)

But in fact **God has placed** the parts in the body, every one of them, **just as he wanted** them to be.

The verse starts and ends with what God has done

1 Corinthians 12:21-22

The eye cannot say to the hand, “I have no need of you,” nor again the head to the feet, “I have no need of you.” On the contrary, the parts of the body that **seem** to be weaker are indispensable,

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1 Corinthians 12:23-24

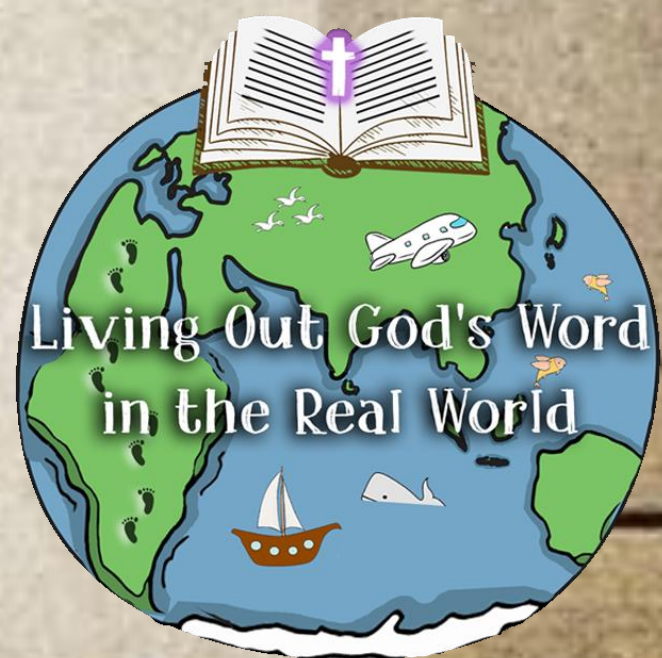
and on those parts of the body that **we think** less honorable we bestow the greater honor, and our unpresentable parts are treated with greater modesty, which our more presentable parts do not require. But God has so composed the body, giving greater honor to the part that lacked it,

1 Corinthians 1:27 (NLT)

Instead, God chose things the world considers foolish in order to shame those who think they are wise. And he chose things that are powerless to shame those who are powerful.

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God Himself would be honoured when the church gives special honour and attention to the people that lack honour and attention.



Moving from FUNCTION to GOAL

Some gifts stated in 1 Corinthians 12:

- **Healing**
- **Working of miracles**
- **Prophecy**
- **Interpretation of tongues**
- **Helping**
- **Administering**

The purpose is for the health and growth of the church

1 Corinthians 12:25-26

so that there should be **no division** in the body, but that its parts should have **equal concern for each other**. If one part suffers, every part **suffers with it**; if one part is honored, every part **rejoices with it**.

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1 Corinthians 12:31 - 13:3

Now eagerly desire the greater gifts. And yet I will show you the most excellent way. If I speak in the tongues of men or of angels, but do not have **love**, I am only a resounding gong or a clanging cymbal.

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1 Corinthians 12:31 - 13:3

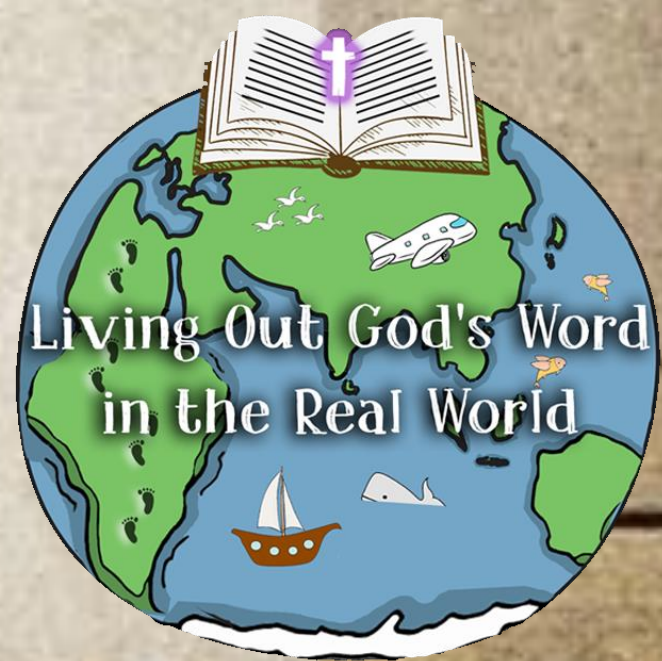
If I have the gift of prophecy and can fathom all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have a faith that can move mountains, but do not have **love**, I am nothing. If I give all I possess to the poor and give over my body to hardship that I may boast, but do not have **love**, I gain nothing.

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**Love is the reason
that you are given the gifts you have!**



**We are given our gifts
to serve and love each other and
to serve and love God.**



APPLICATION

- 1. Ask God to reveal the gifts that He has given to you or wants to give to you.**
- 2. Ask 1 friend and 1 mentor in church about the strengths they notice in you.**
- 3. In the next 6 months, start serving in 1 area where you feel called to contribute.**
- 4. Intentionally love 2 people you are already serving with by way of encouragement, affirmation and prayer.**



John 13:34-35

A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another: just as I have loved you, you also are to love one another. **By this all people will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another.**”

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So, which part are you?

Let us all

Build up the church

by using our gifts

Build up the church

by showing the love of God

