

NWC Questions

for Personal Study and Small Groups 8/21/11

Body by God

1 Cor. 12.12-26

Focus: to call the church to unity rooted in equitable diversity such that there is not division and equal care in the Body, just as God designed it.

Read the entire passage, then have someone read the parable by Mark Dever from "What is a Healthy Church?", pp. 9-11 (see in email). What part of this parable strikes you as truly describing the way many Christians think about the church? What, in this parable, is most incompatible with our passage and why?

vv. 12-14: What do these verses teach about the relationship between the Spirit, conversion and the body of Christ? How should this teaching bear on people who profess to be "unchurched Christians"?

vv. 15-20 What is the main point Paul is making with this section of his metaphor of the church as a body? How should this affect the way every member of the church thinks about their place in the church?

vv. 21-26 What does this teach about the relationships between people in the church? What attitudes produce division in the body? How can we guard against them?

What helps strengthen mutual care and concern for each other? How can we do that at NW? in your small group?

What is implied when we think of suffering and rejoicing together? How are you doing at that? is that a strength for you?

What is one thing you need to prayerfully work on to come in line with this teaching about the church? what is one thing your small group needs to work on?

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