

**One Another series - Notes**  
**25 September 2016**

**Encourage one another, spur one another on**

Read 1 Corinthians 12:12-27 (NLT)

*The human body has many parts, but the many parts make up one whole body. So it is with the body of Christ. Some of us are Jews, some are Gentiles, some are slaves, and some are free. But we have all been baptised into one body by one Spirit, and we all share the same Spirit.[f]*

*Yes, the body has many different parts, not just one part. If the foot says, "I am not a part of the body because I am not a hand," that does not make it any less a part of the body. And if the ear says, "I am not part of the body because I am not an eye," would that make it any less a part of the body? If the whole body were an eye, how would you hear? Or if your whole body were an ear, how would you smell anything?*

*But our bodies have many parts, and God has put each part just where he wants it. How strange a body would be if it had only one part! Yes, there are many parts, but only one body. The eye can never say to the hand, "I don't need you." The head can't say to the feet, "I don't need you."*

*In fact, some parts of the body that seem weakest and least important are actually the most necessary. And the parts we regard as less honourable are those we clothe with the greatest care. So we carefully protect those parts that should not be seen, while the more honourable parts do not require this special care. So God has put the body together such that extra honour and care are given to those parts that have less dignity. This makes for harmony among the members, so that all the members care for each other. If one part suffers, all the parts suffer with it, and if one part is honoured, all the parts are glad.*

*All of you together are Christ's body, and each of you is a part of it.*

1 Corinthians 12:

- What is Paul saying about how we view ourselves and others in terms of superior / inferior, important / less important?
- How do your perceptions colour how you see others?
- Can you think of someone who has influenced you to follow Jesus who may not be perceived as 'important'? What was it that made the person such a blessing?

More widely:

- How did Jesus express His love for God? (E.g. John 15:10)
- How did God express His love for you? (E.g. 1 John 3:16). Consider.

What does that tell us about how we should love others?

Read 1 Thessalonians 5:11-24 (additional suggested version The Message)

- Can you think of anyone who is 'idle', a straggler, or exhausted ...
- What can you do about it - because Jesus loved you?
- What will you do about it?

Conclusions:

Don't: think of yourself as inferior or superior

Don't: let perceptions tell you how important / necessary (BIG), or inferior / less honourable (small) you or others are.

Do: meditate on the mercy and love of God for you

Do: learn to 'see' others as God sees them

Do: think about who can you encourage and spur on, and how.