

Just as our bodies have many parts and each part has a special function, so it is with Christ's body. We are many parts of one body, and we all belong to each other. (Romans 12:4–5)

So far as we know, the apostle Paul was not an anatomist nor a physiologist. But, he may as well have been based on this pair of verses in his letter to the Romans. The metaphor of the structure and function of the human body representing the structure and function of the body of Christ—that being the worldwide population of Christians—is quite insightful.

Just prior to verses 4 and 5 of chapter 12, Paul instructs believers in proper conduct and attitude. Then, before he draws the parallel between the human body and the body of Christ he cautions us not to think we are better than others. Why not? Because we need each other! More importantly, a lost world needs us working together so the message of Jesus Christ is proclaimed!

Be sure you notice the last phrase of this week's key passage: "we all belong to each other." Because of the dynamic nature of our membership in Christ's Church, we have a special relationship to every other believer. This not only gives the body strength, health, resistance to infection, and the like, it means we have a vested interest in looking out for one another. Are you doing your part by being your part?

—Jeff Russell

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