

SERMON SUMMARY

Date: March 12, 2006	11:00 am Worship Service
Preacher: Rev. Donald Lawrence	Reference: 1 Corinthians 12: 12-31
Topic: The Church On Mission – Responsibility by All	

In this particular portion of scripture, Paul points out important factors that can stifle or choke the church from being effective in her mission. Paul was calling on the believers to be mindful of the characteristics of the church and reminded them that they shared the same:

- ✚ Food
- ✚ Father
- ✚ Fellowship
- ✚ Focus

As a church, we have to be mindful of various ‘complexes’ that can develop. In verses 12-13 of the text for example, we have to be mindful of a ‘*diversity complex*’ in terms of wanting people to exhibit similar traits. We are reminded that there are many parts, but one body...many people, but one in Christ. It is important that we recognize one another in Christ and build up unity amongst ourselves by coming together towards one common purpose. The fact is that we need to see the bond we have with each other.



There is also the danger of an ‘*inferiority complex*’ as seen in verses 14-20. Whatever we have been called to do, it is important that we not see our calling as less significant in comparison to someone else’s. Individual feelings and perceptions do not change reality and the fact of the matter is that there is no ‘one-part’ body. God’s plan is to have a body comprised of many parts and all the parts of that body are of importance. All the parts have the same designer and as such, we need to relate to each other in Christ and develop community where we recognize the variety of roles. The fact is that we share in the same body with others.

Verses 21-26 points out the danger of ‘*superiority complex*’ in feeling that one’s calling and purpose in the body is of greater significance than someone else’s. No one can function alone and no one is indispensable. In Christ, we all have the same destiny and it is important that we render service to one another. There is joy in service and mutuality is what needs to be built. The fact is that we need to support others in the body.

Finally, there is the possibility of a ‘*particularity complex*’ when, as believers, we do not see how or where we ‘fit in.’ However, as verses 27-31 indicate, there is:

- ✚ Contribution – a place for all
- ✚ Categorization – a position for all

We should avoid confusion, which can be a problem if one expects everyone to be the same. We should all have the same desire, reach for the highest levels in Christ and be seeking to build up spirituality.

Missions is not so much what one does, but more so about being. We should accept and fulfill our responsibility in the mission of the church.