**Sermon Date:** Jan 10, 2021

**Series:** United In Christ

**Scripture:**  I Cor 12: 12 - 31 ESV

12 For just as the body is one and has many members, and all the members of the body, though many, are one body, so it is with Christ. 13 For in one Spirit we were all baptized into one body—Jews or Greeks, slaves[d] or free—and all were made to drink of one Spirit.

14 For the body does not consist of one member but of many. 15 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. 16 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. 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? 18 But as it is, God arranged the members in the body, each one of them, as he chose. 19 If all were a single member, where would the body be? 20 As it is, there are many parts,[e] yet one body.

21 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.” 22 On the contrary, the parts of the body that seem to be weaker are indispensable, 23 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, 24 which our more presentable parts do not require. But God has so composed the body, giving greater honor to the part that lacked it, 25 that there may be no division in the body, but that the members may have the same care for one another. 26 If one member suffers, all suffer together; if one member is honored, all rejoice together.

27 Now you are the body of Christ and individually members of it. 28 And God has appointed in the church first apostles, second prophets, third teachers, then miracles, then gifts of healing, helping, administrating, and various kinds of tongues. 29 Are all apostles? Are all prophets? Are all teachers? Do all work miracles? 30 Do all possess gifts of healing? Do all speak with tongues? Do all interpret? 31 But earnestly desire the higher gifts.

**Big Idea:**  Christ expects us to rely and care for one another—through complimentary interdependence — so that the world will know him.

**Summary:**

The Holy Spirit baptizes us (submerges us) into the body of Christ, but in making us one, we do not lose our uniqueness. Instead, God uses our fingerprint blend of talents, experiences, and personalities to find a special place to serve the body of Christ. Just as a body has different parts that together make a whole, so too the body of Christ has different parts—with different functions—that together help the body serve one-another in complimentary interdependence.

**Questions:**

1. What does “complimentary interdependence” mean?

(2) Can give you an example of “complimentary interdependence” from your experience in the body of Christ?

(3) Why is the physical body a good picture of what it means to live in “complimentary interdependence”?

(4) Read verse 22 again. The secular Roman picture of “the body” prioritized the more powerful parts of society. But, Paul’s picture of the body gives equal importance to everyone. Why is this important?

(5) Where do you see your gifts fitting in the body of Christ? Have you ever doubted your importance? Why is it crucial not to doubt yours or anyone’s importance to the body?

(6) Randy challenged us to DESIRE, EXPLORE, and CONFIRM our gifts or places in the body. What do you think God is calling YOU to do in response to this challenge?

(7) There are many secular personality and “finding your talent” tests—and these can be helpful. But, Paul is talking about gifts of the SPIRIT. Why is it important to let the HOLY SPIRIT lead and empower you to find your place to serve in the body of Christ?