

WEEK 4:  
NOVEMBER 27

THE COMMITTED COMMUNITY OF THE CHURCH  
1 CORINTHIANS 12:14-26

# FELLOWSHIP

"LOVE ONE ANOTHER"

## DEVOTIONAL GUIDE

Text below in italics are quotes by Rev. Mark Roberts found at  
<http://www.markdroberts.com/htmlfiles/resources/churchasbody.htm>

This website is a series of blogs on the Body of Christ. It would be well worth your time to read through these blogs this week.

### MONDAY

Read 1 Corinthians 12:14-18

*Most Christian communities have a very difficult time living with diversity. Uniformity is so much more comfortable. If we all look about the same, dress about the same, talk about the same, and vote about the same, church is so much simpler. If we all agree on music styles and sermons lengths, worship wars are fought on somebody else's turf, not our own. But, unfortunately for our comfort, that's not what it means to be the church of Jesus Christ. God has intentionally composed the body of Christ to be diverse. . . If we are going to live in unity as the diverse body of Christ, we need divine help. We need to love as God has loved us in Christ, which is exactly why Paul follows his discussion of the body in 1 Corinthians 12 with his famous "Love Chapter" in 1 Corinthians 13.*

Consider ways you might be wanting the church to be uniform for your own comfort. Ask God to transform your thinking; to help you love like he loves, so you can appreciate diversity in the body.

### TUESDAY

Read Ephesians 4:1-7, 11-13

*Actual unity among Christians is a top priority because it reflects basic theological realities. When the church is united, then God's plan for the ages shines forth with brilliance. When we live separate and disconnected lives, the good news of God's work in Christ hides in the shadow of our disunity.*

How will your activities today be connected to the body of Christ?

### WEDNESDAY

Read 1 Corinthians 12:18-25

The body of Christ has an upside down sort of hierarchy.

Make a choice today to do something in which you put yourself in a position of humbleness.

### THURSDAY

Read Romans 12:3-10

Consider how your words and actions today can bring honor to others.

### FRIDAY

Read 1 Corinthians 12:26

*So, though it can be scary to share your life with others, or to share deeply in their lives, the results of such vulnerability and connectedness are rich indeed. They can stretch those of us who prize independence and self-reliance. But when we truly share our lives together as members of the body of Christ, the rewards are plentiful.*

Are you willing to be vulnerable with your brothers and sisters in Christ? Is there anything keeping you from sharing a joy or struggle with fellow Christians? Are you open and caring in a way that allows others to share their joys and struggles with you?