

THE NATURE OF THE CHURCH

(07/05/2026; 1 Corinthians 12:11-27; Richie Pendred; Christ Proclamation Church)

Sermon Theme: God has uniquely arranged His diverse blood-bought saints into one body. The beauty of the Church shines forth through unity in diversity as we care for one another and for those in the world. Therefore, every member is called to genuinely love and serve as Christ has loved and served us!

I. The Church Is Diverse – Read 1 Corinthians 12:8-11 and Acts 16:11-34

- A. Read 1 Corinthians 12:8-11. In what ways does Paul highlight the diversity of the church?
- B. Read Acts 16:11-34. What do you notice about Lydia, the slave girl, and the Philippian jailer? How do these three individuals showcase both the unity and diversity of Christ's church?
- C. What would it look like to grow in intentionally getting to know people who are different from you at Christ Proclamation Church?

II. The Church Is Unified – Read 1 Corinthians 12:12-27

- A. What observations do you make from verses 12-13? What is the significance of the repetition of the word “one”?
- B. In verses 15-16, what do the foot and ear each say about themselves? How does Paul correct their way of thinking?
- C. Why is it foolish for the foot to say, “I don’t belong to the body” just because it isn’t a hand? How should verse 18 change the way we view our role as members of the body?
- D. Read verses 22-24. Why does Paul say the “weaker” parts of the body are “indispensable”? What does this reveal about how God's values differ from the world's understanding of status?

III. The Church Is On-Mission – Application

- A. What evidence in this passage suggests Paul is addressing the members of a local church rather than speaking only about the universal church?
- B. What does it look like to suffer with one another? What are some practical ways you could enter into someone’s suffering this week?
- C. When do you find it most difficult to rejoice with others in the church? How would you like to grow in rejoicing with other members of this church?
- D. Based on Paul's ministry in Acts 16, what does it look like to care for the lost? In what ways would you like to grow in caring for the lost by proclaiming the gospel?