

Blessed²

Tools in the Body of Christ

Every follower of Jesus is a *tool* – used in tandem with other Jesus followers – to be the church and reach people for Jesus (1 Corinthians 12:12-14). Or as Paul wrote, we are the body of Christ, made up of many parts. Each part as God's workmanship has a significant role to play, created intentionally to accomplish good works. When any part does not function as it should, it affects and hurts the whole body. But when we discover what kind of tool God has made us to be and give of ourselves in serving as that tool, we experience fulfillment and become more blessed.

GET THINGS STARTED

How handy or experienced are you with various construction, plumbing, or automotive tools? Which tool do you like to use the most or are most proficient at using? Where or from whom did you learn to use tools?

GO DEEPER

1. According to 1 Corinthians 12:12-13, how is the church of Jesus like a physical body?
2. Why is it significant that not all parts of the body of Christ are the same, from 1 Corinthians 12:14-20, and that God has arranged the members of the body as He has chosen? How are we as a body affected when one part does not function as it was intended?
3. What does Ephesians 2:10 convey about each part of the body of Christ? What are the dangers of comparison to other parts within the body?

MAKE IT PERSONAL

1. What part (or tool) of the body are you? How do you or should you contribute to the body as a whole?
2. Where on the spectrum of serving or giving of yourself do you fall (i.e., not enough, just right, too much)? What are your spiritual gifts and abilities, your heart and passion, and/or your experiences that might inform where or how you should serve?
3. What is your next step in serving or giving of yourself?

PRACTICE IT NOW

Take time as a group, in an attitude and atmosphere of prayer, to ask God to speak to you about serving and giving of yourself. Ask Him to show you where or how to serve, and how much you should serve. Ask God to reveal any barriers to serving and giving of yourself that you need to address (e.g., fear, inconvenience, busyness, etc.). And ask Him to show you what your next step is, and for courage to take that step.