

12 The body is a unit, though it is made up of many parts; and though all its parts are many, they form one body. So it is with Christ. **13** For we were baptized by one Spirit into one body – whether Jews or Greeks, slave or free – and we were all given the one Spirit to drink. **14** Now the body is not made up of one part but of many. **15** If the foot should say, “Because I am not a hand, I do not belong to the body,” it would not for that reason cease to be part of the body. **16** And if the ear should say, “Because I am not an eye, I do not belong to the body,” it would not for that reason cease to be part of the body. **17** If the whole body were an eye, where would the sense of hearing be? If the whole body were an ear, where would the sense of smell be?



18 But in fact God has arranged the parts of the body, every one of them, just as he wanted them to be. 19 If they were all one part, where would the body be? 20 As it is, there are many parts, but one body. 21 The eye cannot say to the hand, “I don’t need you!” And the head cannot say to the feet, “I don’t need you!” 22 On the contrary, those parts of the body that seem to be weaker are indispensable, 23 and the parts that we think are less honorable we treat with special honor. And the parts that are unpresentable are treated with special modesty,



24 while our presentable parts need no special treatment. But God has combined the members of the body and has given greater honor to the parts that lacked it, **25** so that there should be no division in the body, but that its parts should have equal concern for each other. **26** If one part suffers, every part suffers with it; if one part is honored, every part rejoices with it.

1 Cor 12:12-26



Body Principles

1. Many parts, one body
2. God works in all of us
3. Gifts are given for the common good
4. God has designed and arranged every part
5. Interdependency of its parts
6. No division in the body
7. Equal concern for each other
8. Suffers together
9. Rejoices together
10. Nobody is a nobody in the body of Christ!



***The Destructiveness of
Unhealthy Comparisons***

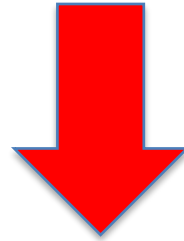
VS.

***The Fruitfulness of
Celebration & Rejoicing***



What Do We Compare?

- People
- Possessions
- Performance
- Circumstances
- **EVERYTHING!**



1. Unhealthy Comparison blinds us to God's Blessings and Provision

- CNY experience
- Prodigal son's brother
Lk 15:28 - The older brother became angry
v31 – You are always with me and everything I have is yours.
- Workers in vineyard
Mt 20:10 - So when they came who were hired first, they expected to receive more. But each one of them also received a denarius.
v11 – they began to grumble....



2. Unhealthy Comparison feeds an Unhealthy Pride

- Pharisee and tax collector

Lk 18:11 – God, I thank you that I am not like other men – robbers, evildoers, adulterers – or even like this tax collector

- Gal 6:4-5

Each one should test his own actions. Then he can take pride in himself, without comparing himself to somebody else, for each one should carry his own load.



2. Unhealthy Comparison feeds an Unhealthy Pride

Galatians 6:4 tells us that there is a pride that is legitimate and healthy. Man wants and needs to feel good about himself. But this **God-given dignity and healthy pride is one that comes from self-examination before God, not comparison with man.** The key to healthy pride then is not to compare ourselves with others. Sinful pride emerges when we compare and contrast our strengths with the weaknesses of others to make ourselves feel superior. We may do so either verbally on the outside, or subtly on the inside.”

Pastor Benny Ho



3. Unhealthy Comparison leads to Resentment and Discontent

- **Saul and David**

1 Sam 18:7 – Saul has slain his thousands, and David his tens of thousands.

v8 – Saul was very angry

v9 – From that time on Saul kept a jealous eye on David

v11 – I'll pin David to the wall

1 Sam 19:1 – Saul told his son Jonathan and all the attendants to kill David.

- **Primary School experience**



4. Unhealthy Comparison stirs up Divisions in the Body

- **Mt 20 – A Mother's Request**

v21 – To sit at the right and left hand of Jesus

v23 – When the ten heard about this, they were indignant with the two brothers.

- **Who is the greatest?**

Mk 9:33 – What were you arguing about on the road?

v34 – But they kept quiet because on the way they had argued about who was the greatest

- **1 Cor 12:25** – so that there should be no division in the body but that its parts should have equal concern for each other.



5. Unhealthy Comparison takes our Focus away from Following Jesus

- Do you love me? Jn 21:15-22
v20 – Peter turned and saw that the disciple whom Jesus loved was following them
v21 – Lord, what about him?
v22 – Jesus answered, “If I want him to remain alive until I return, what is that to you? **You must follow me.**”
- 1 Cor 11:1 – follow my example, as I follow the example of Christ.
- Eph 5:1 – Be imitators of God, therefore, as dearly loved children



5. Unhealthy Comparison takes our Focus away from Following Jesus

- The Holy Spirit gives gifts to each one as he determines (1 Cor 12:11)
- God has designed and arranged every part of the body just as he wanted them to be (1 Cor 12:18)
- Nobody is a nobody in the body of Christ
- Everyone is important, everyone is needed, everyone has a God-given role to play



5. Unhealthy Comparison takes our Focus away from Following Jesus

- When they measure themselves by themselves and compare themselves with themselves, they are not wise. (2 Cor 10:12)
- But let him who boasts boast in the Lord. For it is not the one who commends himself who is approved but the one whom the Lord commends. (2 Cor 10:17-18)



What Do We Celebrate and Rejoice?

- God Himself (Phil 4:4)
- Redemptive work of God
- What God has done, is doing and will do
- Our sins are forgiven
- Our hope is secure
- God is sovereign and in control
- God's blessings and provision
- Love and encouragement shown to us
- Other's gifts, abilities, successes and blessings



The Fruitfulness of Celebration & Rejoicing

- Free us from the snares of unhealthy comparison
- Gives us a heart of humility and thanksgiving
- Affirms each other's gifts and ministry
- Edifies and builds up the body of Christ
- Enables us to spur one another on toward love and good deeds. (Heb 10:24)
- Allows us to focus on Christ and his will for our lives

