

We are the Body of Christ (9 Marks-Mark Dever)

- A people, not a place
- A people, not a statistic
- A people, not a vendor of religious goods and services
- A people, not an entertainment or theo-tainment center

Imagine that you are moving to another city, and you don't have connections with any Christians there. Your first order of business is to find a church. List five to ten things you would look for in a church.

From 9 Marks-Dever

“Scripture teaches that Christians should not approach the church as consumers but as members of a body. This means that we are to commit to one another, depend on one another, honor one another, and care for one another. In all we do in the church, we should seek not the fulfillment of our own desires but the common good.”

Read 1 Corinthians 12

- Some thought on verses 1-11
  - Some clarification on universal and local church
1. What is the overarching metaphor Paul uses to describe the church throughout this passage?
  2. What do the foot and the eye say in verses 15 and 16? What attitude or emotion does this express?
  3. In verses 17-20, Paul essentially makes two points for the foot and the ear. What are they?
  4. Read verses 19-20 again. If you are tempted to think like the foot and the ear, how do these verses encourage you?
  5. What do the eye and the head say in verse 21? What attitude does this express?
  6. What are the two main points in Paul's response to the eye and the head (vv. 22-25)?

7. What does Paul say about the parts of the body that seem to be weaker (v 22)? In light of this, how should we treat church members who do not seem impressive to us?
  
8. According to verse 25, God seems to have two goals for arranging the parts as he does. What are they? What is the example he gives in verse 26 to illustrate these things?
  
9. In light of this passage, how is a “Lone-Ranger Christian,” who tries to live out his or her discipleship to Christ independently of others, misguided?
  
10. Consider verse 7 again. What are some practical ways that we can reject consumerism and seek the common good in how we relate to:
  - a. The church’s corporate gatherings?
  - b. Listening to sermons?
  - c. Older members of the church?
  - d. Young mothers?
  - e. Widows?
  - f. Singles?
  - g. Others?

Consider your answers to our starting question. What would you look for in a church? Is there anything you might change? Add? Remove?