



Part 3: Paresthesia

Introduction

The church is a body, and just like with a physical body, all the parts need to be present, connected, and engaged for the church to fulfill its potential to do good. We are all uniquely gifted to play a part in the story of God. And every part is indispensable.

Discussion Questions

1. Have you ever had the experience where one part of your body was asleep (paresthesia) and it impacted your entire body? What was that like?
2. The apostle Paul compared the church to a body multiple times in letters to multiple communities. Why do you think he returned to this particular analogy?
3. Read 1 Corinthians 12:12–27. What happens (or doesn't happen) when parts of the church body are not active or operating at full capacity?
4. Read 1 Corinthians 12:4–11 and Romans 12:4–8. What does it mean that Paul lists different sets of gifts in the two different letters?
5. Samer stated, "As believers, God has given you some very specific gifts. In fact, all of your skills, talents, abilities, passions, and gifts are from God. And when we use those gifts for the purpose of glorifying God and unleashing good in the world, it is a spiritual gift." What do you think of this broader definition of spiritual gift?
6. What is one gift you are currently using to build up the church or love others well? How are you using it and what impact is it having?
7. Are there skills or talents you possess that you haven't really thought of using to love or serve others? What difference might it make if you actively sought to use those talents or skills to love and serve others? What is one step you could take in the next month to put those gifts to use for the good of those around you?

Changing Your Mind

"For we are God's handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do."

Ephesians 2:10