



TIME OF GRACE®

Some Assembly Required: Unique but United

Study Notes

Summary

As Paul begins his discussion of the “body of Christ,” he reminds us of the big picture. Baptism. Spirit. Spiritual thirst quenched by the gospel. What the church has in common is exponentially bigger than our differences. He does the same in Ephesians chapter 4, repeating the unity we have in Jesus—one Lord, one faith, one hope, one God. Therefore, before we talk about our uniqueness, we celebrate our unity in Jesus, no matter what our diverse wiring, quirks, or personalities.

- Christians are _____ but _____.
- Four Key Sections:
 1. Romans _____
 2. 1 Corinthians _____
 3. Ephesians _____
 4. 1 Peter _____
- **1 Corinthians 12:12:** Just as a body, though one, has many parts, but all its many parts form one body, so it is with Christ.
- **Romans 12:4,5:** For just as each of us has one body with many members, and these members do not all have the same function, ⁵so in Christ we, though many, form one body, and each member belongs to all the others.
- **Ephesians 4:4-6:** There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called to one hope when you were called; ⁵one Lord, one faith, one baptism; ⁶one God and Father of all, who is over all and through all and in all.
- **Challenge:** When you notice they're _____, remember you're _____.

Points to Ponder

1. What personality differences have you noticed in the church? In your Bible study group? Among other Christians in your family?

2. Which is a greater struggle for you—pride or jealousy? How is Paul’s teaching in Ephesians 4:1-6 the remedy for both?

3. **Challenge:** Take the StrengthsFinder 2.0 test (online or buy a book) to maximize your understanding of yourself and others.

Homework for Next Week

Read 1 Corinthians 12:1-14.

*“Now you are the body of Christ, and each one of you is a part of it.”
—The apostle Paul*