

Think of parts of the body  
– what comes to mind?

- Eyes, Hands, Ears?

What about the internal  
bits?

- Heart, Lungs, Liver?
- Pancreas?
  - Helps digestion

To stay healthy all bits of the  
body are important

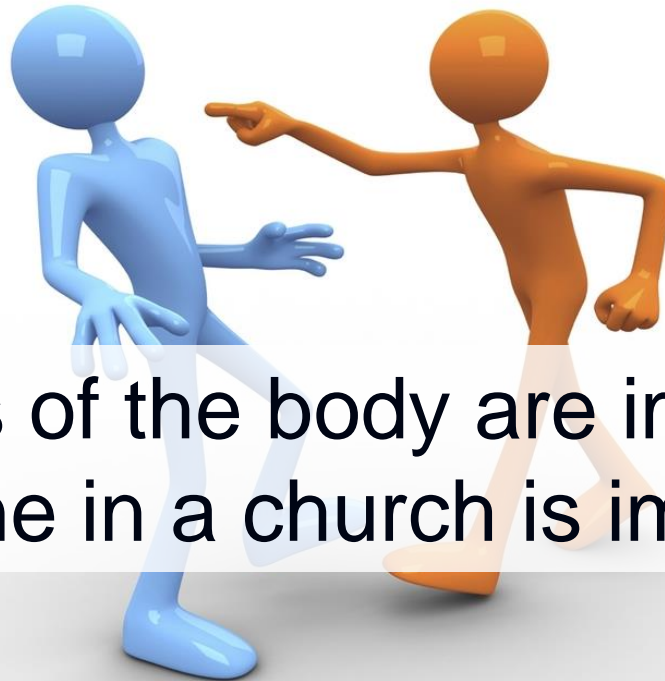
# Corinth, Greece, year 55

- Diverse city
- As was the young Christian church



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All the bits of the body are important...  
Everyone in a church is important

v14-20: those who felt their role was inferior or unimportant

- <sup>16</sup> If the ear should say, 'Because I'm not an eye, I do not belong to the body'
- <sup>17</sup> If the whole body were an eye, where would be the sense of hearing be?
- Every bit of the body is useful
- And so is everyone in the church

v21-26: those who overvalued their importance in the church

- <sup>21</sup> 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!'
- Every bit of the body is useful
- Just like in the church
- <sup>27</sup> Now you are the body of Christ [the Church], and each one of you is a part of it

22-23 ...those parts of the body that seem to be weaker are indispensable, and the parts that we think are less honourable we treat with special honour

- Those that do the 'less important jobs' are indispensable
  - Washing up after tea and coffee
  - Gritting the steps in icy weather
  - Organising rotas
- As important as those with a visible role

23 ... And the parts that are unpresentable are treated with special modesty

- The bits of the body that we don't show in public
- Not seen but they are important
- Church: the people you don't see at work
  - Visit sick or lonely neighbours
  - Safeguarding officer
  - Administrator
- Vital to the working of the church



Welcome

To St James, St Martin's & St John's

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**Contradictory?**

28-29 And in the church God has placed first of all **apostles**, second prophets, third teachers, then workers of miracles, also those having gifts of healing, of helping, of guidance, and of different kinds of tongues

- Eye-witnesses of Jesus
- Person in charge of continuing Jesus's work, building new churches
- **Vicar**

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- Someone who gets a message from God and tells people

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- Someone who can explain the Bible and put it into context

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- Form the foundation of the church

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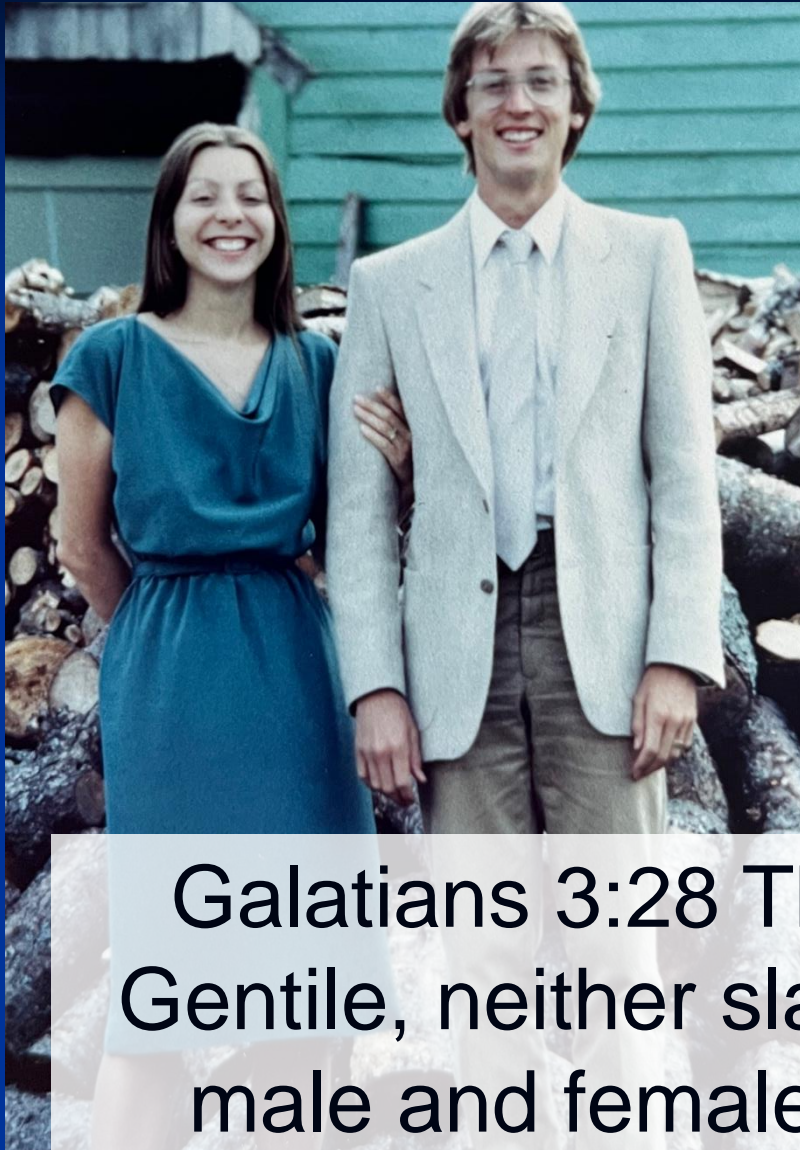
- Form the foundation of the church
- Other roles are needed for the church to work
  - List of examples
  - Different roles **12:8-10**
  - **Romans 12:4-8, Colossians 4:11**

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**Everyone in the church is important**

- For **apostles** are needed for the church
- Other **gifts** are needed for the church to work
  - List of examples
  - Different roles **12:8-10**
  - **Romans 12:4-8, Colossians 4:11**





- No one trying to be most important
- People of different cultures, income, background, working together and appreciating each other

Galatians 3:28 There is neither Jew nor Gentile, neither slave nor free, nor is there male and female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus

## Take Home Message

If you would consider yourself a Christian:

No need to change into something you're not,  
just to try and fit in

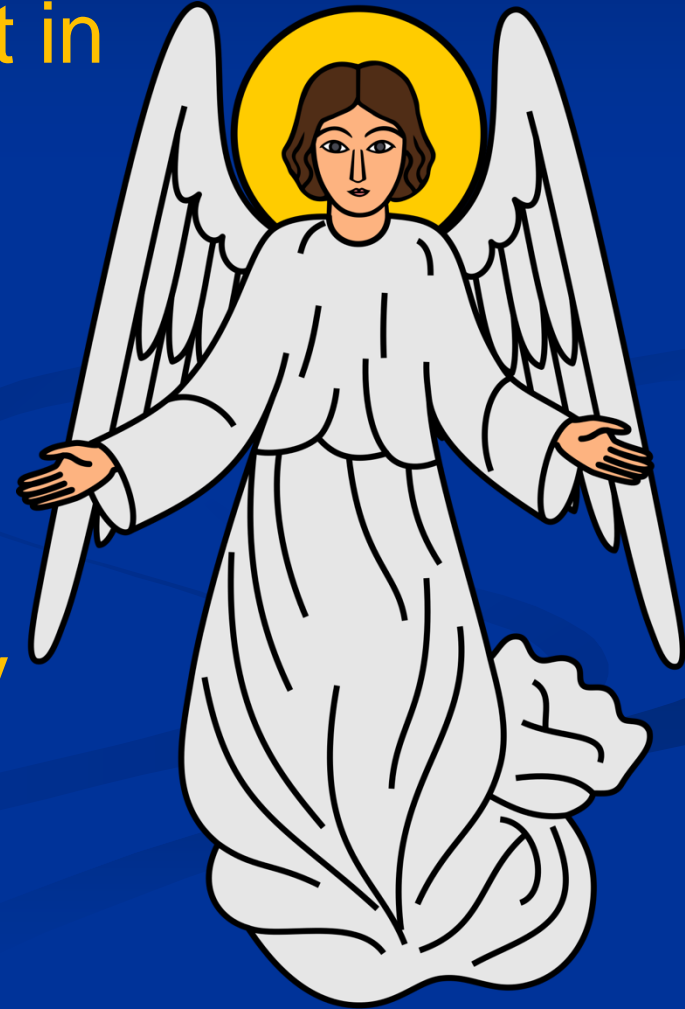
- Whatever your gifts use them well, no matter how small or insignificant that may feel
  - You are a valuable part of the church body
- Be content with the gifts you have
  - Everything you do is valuable
- Don't have a role in the Church?
  - Pray: gifts you aren't yet using

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- Change into a saint to be accepted?
- Or at least pretend
- Don't have to earn your way into God's good books



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- 'Jesus, I've not always been the nicest person, I'm sorry and want you to forgive me, and I want you to be with me and help me from now on'
- You are accepted at that moment, just as you are
- God's love is unconditional

## Take Home Message

If you wouldn't consider yourself a Christian:

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About being loved and cared for by someone  
who sees all your faults and still loves you,  
and wants you to be part of his family