

CHURCH STRUCTURE

**Now you are the body of Christ, and each one of you is a part of it.
(1 Corinthians 12:27)**

If you had to, which would you choose – to be blind or to be deaf? Would you rather have only one leg or only one arm? Those are difficult and unfair questions, aren't they? Of course, we want to see AND hear. Of course, we want TWO legs and TWO arms. In other words, we want a complete body.

The Lord wants a complete body also. The body of Christ (the church) consists of every person who believes in Jesus as the Savior. Every Christian is part of the same body, but just like a human body, there are different parts. The human body cannot be just a six-foot eyeball or a five-foot-six-inch ear. A complete body needs two eyes, two ears, one nose, one mouth, two legs, two arms, etc. Every Christian is a different part of the spiritual body. Some Christians are gifted musicians and play the organ or piano or another instrument in church. Others are gifted singers and sing in the choir or in harmony during the service. Others are gifted with organizational skills and serve on the Church Council or on the Ladies Aid or Youth Group. Still others share God's Word as a Sunday School teacher or helper or in Bible Study.

But maybe after hearing that list, you're thinking, "I'm not that important. I can't sing a single note on key, I'm not good at being a leader, I'm not comfortable talking to other children or adults about Jesus. I just have nothing to offer the Church." NOT TRUE!!!! Think of your body. Sure, there are the "important" parts like your brain, your eyes, and your ears. But what about your toes, your eyelashes, your gall bladder – aren't they important also? Every part of the human body is a gift of God and has a unique function. Without that part, your body is incomplete. (Try limping around a whole day by not using your toes as you walk). When members of the church body stay away from church or are not involved in its ministry and mission, the church limps along. God has created us to be a complete body in him and for him. And you are an important part of that body.

THE PRAYER:

Gracious God, all that I have comes from you: my body and mind, my strength and intelligence, my time and abilities, my energy and possessions. Guard me from the temptation to use these gifts only for my personal benefit. Make me willing to use them joyfully in service to you and to your people. Amen. (CW p. 136)