

# Summary

In this sermon, Pastor Mike discusses how the church functions as the body of Christ, emphasizing that understanding God's design for the church is crucial for its proper functioning. He explains that just as a human body has a head (Christ), many diverse parts (church members), and parts that depend on one another, so too does the church require interdependence among its members. The sermon highlights that both attitudes of superiority and inferiority have no place in the church, as every member is valuable and necessary for the body to function properly.

## Intro Prayer

Heavenly Father, as we gather to discuss Your design for the church, open our hearts and minds to understand how You intended Your body to function. Help us recognize our place in Your church and the importance of our attitudes and behaviors toward one another. Guide our conversation today, Lord, and show us how we can better serve as vital parts of Your body. May we leave this discussion with a renewed commitment to living out the 'one another' commands in Your Word. In Jesus' name, amen.

## Ice Breaker

What's something you use regularly that you discovered has a feature or function you didn't know about until someone showed you?

## Key Verses

1. Romans 12:4-5
2. Colossians 1:18
3. Ephesians 1:22-23
4. 1 Corinthians 12:15-17
5. 1 Corinthians 12:21

## Questions

1. Pastor Mike said, 'Humility is the fuel that runs the Church of Jesus Christ.' How have you seen this principle at work in our church community?
2. In what ways do you sometimes struggle with either feelings of superiority or inferiority within the church body?
3. The sermon mentioned there are 58 'one another' commands in the New Testament. Why do you think God placed so much emphasis on how we relate to each other?
4. How has your understanding of the church as the 'body of Christ' changed or deepened after hearing this message?
5. Pastor Mike emphasized that 'we need one another.' Can you share a time when another church member met a need in your life that you couldn't have met yourself?
6. What specific role or gift do you believe God has given you to contribute to the body of Christ? How are you currently using it?

# Life Application

This week, identify one specific way you can demonstrate your interdependence with other church members. This might mean reaching out to someone with a different gift than yours for help with a challenge you're facing, offering your unique abilities to serve someone else in the body, or simply acknowledging your need for others by asking for prayer or support. Then, look for one opportunity outside the church to demonstrate Christ-like attitudes and behaviors that might open a door for gospel conversations.

## Key Takeaways

1. The church is designed by God to function as a body with Christ as the head and each member playing a vital, interdependent role.
2. Both attitudes of superiority and inferiority have no place in the church - we all need one another.
3. Our attitudes and behaviors toward one another are critical to the health of the church and our witness to the world.
4. The 'one another' commands in Scripture are not optional but essential instructions for how church should work.
5. As church members, we may be the first 'Bible' that non-believers read through our actions and attitudes.

## Ending Prayer

Lord Jesus, thank You for being the head of Your church and for designing each of us to play a unique and necessary role in Your body. Forgive us for the times we've acted independently or failed to value the contributions of others. Help us embrace the truth that we need one another. Transform our attitudes and behaviors to reflect Your love, forgiveness, honor, and encouragement toward each other. May our unity and interdependence shine as a powerful witness to a watching world. Empower us to live out the 'one another' commands not just within these walls but in every interaction throughout our week. In Your name we pray, amen.