

The Church Family

1 Corinthians 12:21-26

April 16, 2023

Introduction: This week at UPC we welcome to the pulpit Dr. Vince Bantu as our guest preacher. Dr. Bantu is the president of the Meachum School of Haymanot in St. Louis which is committed to providing graduate level biblical, theological education to Black communities in a contextualized and affordable manner. He also serves on the faculty of Fuller Theological Seminary as Assistant Professor of Church History and Black Church Studies. Dr. Bantu is familiar to many at UPC who attended the deep-dive he presented to those participating in the Immerse Bible Study on the topic of Slavery, the Bible and Multiethnicity in November 2021. We are delighted to welcome Dr. Bantu to UPC and look forward to his message on The Church Family from 1 Corinthians 12.

Prayer: Father, be our teacher as we open your word together to learn what it means to be a part of your body, the church. Open our hearts to your Holy Spirit and to one another as we seek your truth. Amen.

Read: 1 Corinthians 12:21-26

Review: How did you listen for God's voice this week? In your thinking about your life with Jesus, what did you notice that you have gained? What have you given up?

Discussion:

1. Paul is comparing the Christian church to a body with many parts. (See 1 Corinthians 12:12-20) What are some ways the metaphor of a body is particularly appropriate for discussing the church family?
2. What part of the body the Apostle Paul describes do you think you are? Why?
3. What parts of the body would you rather not have? To whom are you tempted to say, "I don't need you."? What makes you feel this way?
4. How can you show honor to all of the body? Try to think of some specific examples.
5. What does Paul hope for the church to be and to do?

Application: Ask God to show you a place where your thinking about the Church Family needs to be corrected, expanded or encouraged to grow.

Prayer: Father, thank you for the gift of placing us in a body of believers. Guide us to fulfill the role in the body you have created for us and to work in constructive ways with the other parts of your body. Amen.