



Body of Christ

21st Confirmation Class Handout

John 15:1-15 (The Message): 1 "I am the Real Vine and my Father is the Farmer. 2 He cuts off every branch of me that doesn't bear grapes. And every branch that is grape-bearing he prunes back so it will bear even more. 3 You are already pruned back by the message I have spoken.

4 "Live in me. Make your home in me just as I do in you. In the same way that a branch can't bear grapes by itself but only by being joined to the vine, you can't bear fruit unless you are joined with me.

5 "I am the Vine, you are the branches. When you're joined with me and I with you, the harvest is sure to be abundant. Separated, you can't produce a thing. 6 Anyone who separates from me is deadwood, gathered up and thrown on the bonfire. 7 But if you make yourselves at home with me and my words are at home in you, you can be sure that whatever you ask will be listened to and acted upon. 8 This is how my Father shows who he is - when you produce grapes, when you mature as my disciples.

9 "I've loved you the way my Father has loved me. Make yourselves at home in my love. 10 If you keep my commands, you'll remain intimately at home in my love. That's what I've done - kept my Father's commands and made myself at home in his love. 11 "I've told you these things for a purpose: that my joy might be your joy, and your joy wholly mature. 12 This is my command: Love one another the way I loved you. 13 This is the very best way to love.

1 Cor 12:12-21;27 (NRSV): 12 For just as the body is one and has many members, and all the members of the body, though many, are one body, so it is with Christ. 13 For in the one Spirit we were all baptized into one body—Jews or Greeks, slaves or free—and we were all made to drink of one Spirit. 14 Indeed, the body does not consist of one member but of many. 15 If the foot would say, "Because I am not a hand, I do not belong to the body," that would not make it any less a part of the body. 16 And if the ear would say, "Because I am not an eye, I do not belong to the body," that would not make it any less a part of the body. 17 If the whole body were an eye, where would the hearing be? If the whole body were hearing, where would the sense of smell be? 18 But as it is, God arranged the members in the body, each one of them, as he chose. 19 If all were a single member, where would the body be? 20 As it is, there are many members, yet one body. 21 The eye cannot say to the hand, "I have no need of you," nor again the head to the feet, "I have no need of you."

27 Now you are the body of Christ, and each one of you is a part of it.

Notes:

- It is important for us to note that the Church/the Body of Christ is not a building. We, the people who choose to follow Jesus and seek God, are the church.
- So this might not seem right, at first, but God needs us. God needs us to be God's Body, and the more we pay attention to God, the stronger, more viable, more attractive God will be to this world. The things we see Jesus offer, we agree, is pretty cool. Now just imagine if 10, 20, 80, 1000 of us were doing those same things! That's what it means to be God's body, to be the Body of Christ.

CHALLENGE OF THE WEEK: So God doesn't stop us from doing stupid things, unfortunately. What are some things that people do that you wish God would stop us from doing for our own betterment?

Instruction sheet #1

- You absolutely will never touch your shoe or anyone else's shoe because you have a phobia of shoes. They are the worst thing you can ever imagine. You recognize them as a necessary evil, but you hate them.
- However, you like people. So, you're willing to help them out, if they ask for help. And you're willing to accept help.
- You like to talk loudly, even if no one is looking, about why you hate shoes – how they are a burden upon humanity. How they conform our toes and make the soles of our feet soft. Make stuff up. And then preach it!

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Instruction sheet #2

- You love shoes. They are your favorite thing ever. You love to tie and untie shoes. You love to tie and untie shoes to each other.
- Sometimes, **when no one is looking**, you take a shoe and put it under the couch.
- If you get caught, don't apologize. Instead, you must talk about how much you love shoes and that humans just don't appreciate shoes. Talk about how humans just stick their dirty little feet in them and scuff 'em up,

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Instruction sheet #3

- You can't see. But you have a very strong sense of smell. You don't like shoes because they smell so bad.
- Whenever you find a shoe, you put it in the trash can because that's where bad smelling things go. Feel free to tell others what you are doing and why you are doing it. Be careful, though, because remember... YOU CAN'T SEE.
- Ask others for help in finding shoes and then throwing them away.

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Instruction sheet #4

- You love shoes and you love people. You show your love for people and shoes by matching them up with one another.
- As you try to put shoes on people's feet, you tell the person why the shoe you are putting on them is the exact right shoe for them to wear.

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Instruction sheet #5

- Congratulations! You are God.
- You know that everyone is preoccupied with shoes. And, you know that you made the people for better things other than paying attention to shoes.
- You may not touch the shoes or the people.
- You may, however, engage each individual in conversation.
- Introduce yourself by saying, "Hi there, I'm God."
- Tell them that shoes aren't important.
- Tell them to love each other and to forget about the shoes.
- If they ask how they can do that, tell them to put some shoes on or leave their shoes and to follow you.
- Most likely, they won't follow you.
- Then go to the next person and talk to them.
- Invite the people following you (if there are any) to help you out in the conversation.
- Be prepared for them to say things that as God, strike you as very strange.
- Do not argue, just keep inviting them to follow you.