

A Peculiar Belonging (Romans 12:4-5)

Peculiar People (Romans 12-13) pt. 3

THE BIG IDEA

Christians have a peculiar belonging. Our bodies are a picture of this peculiar belonging. Because we belong to Christ's body, we belong to each other.

OPENING

- Have you ever felt like you really belonged in a group? What made you feel like you belonged?

DIGGING DEEPER

- Theologian Seyoon Kim suggests that the idea of the Church as Christ's body came from Paul's encounter with Jesus on the road to Damascus.¹ Read Acts 9:1-5. Who was Paul (aka Saul) persecuting? Who does Jesus say he's persecuting? What does this suggest about the relationship between Christ and Christians?
- According to Colossians 1:18, who is the head of Christ's body. What are the roles of pastors, elders, and members if Christ is the head?
- Read Galatians 3:28-29. Jew/Gentile was the primary ethnic and racial dividing line in the ancient world. Slave/Free was the primary economic dividing line in the ancient world. And Male/Female was (and is) the gender dividing line. What does v. 29 imply about these dividing lines?

¹Seyoon Kim, *The Origin of Paul's Gospel* (Wipf and Stock, 2007).

- How do the following “one another” commands help us live out our belonging to each other in the body?

Be devoted to one another in love (Romans 12:10a)

Honor one another above yourself (Romans 12:10b)

Love one another (13:8)

Accept one another (15:7)

Greet one another (16:16)

PUTTING IT TO WORK

Chose one of the “one another” commands from above and find ways to live it out this week with someone else.

PRAYER REQUESTS