

Diversity: Gender and Sexuality in the Body of Christ, Week 1

What are some of the first thoughts that come to mind when you hear the phrase “Gender and Sexuality in the Body of Christ?”

What do you think of when you hear “sexuality”?

What do you think of when you hear “gender”?

Passage #1: 1 Corinthians 12:12-27

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 one Spirit we were all baptized into one body—Jews or Greeks, slaves^[a] or free—and all were made to drink of one Spirit.

14 For the body does not consist of one member but of many. 15 If the foot should 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 should 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 be the sense of hearing? If the whole body were an ear, where would be the sense of smell? 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 parts,^[b] 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.” 22 On the contrary, the parts of the body that seem to be weaker are indispensable, 23 and on those parts of the body that we think less honorable we bestow the greater honor, and our unpresentable parts are treated with greater modesty, 24 which our more presentable parts do not require. But God has so composed the body, giving greater honor to the part that lacked it, 25 that there may be no division in the body, but that the members may have the same care for one another. 26 If one member suffers, all suffer together; if one member is honored, all rejoice together.

27 Now you are the body of Christ and individually members of it.

What is Paul saying to us about Diversity in this passage? What is God trying to communicate to you through this passage?

Steps for Verse Mapping:

- 1) Prayer!
 - a) Serves to center you, instill silence to hear God's voice
- 2) Choose your Verse to Map!
 - a) In this case, I focused on this verse to better understand it myself to help share my thoughts with ya'll!
 - b) Can choose based on category, a book you're studying, literally anything!
- 3) Select your verse, and write it down!
 - a) Select 2-4 different translations, make sure to leave space in between them to write!
 - b) Compare translations
- 4) Identify/Underline key phrases, themes, and standouts among the translations
 - a) Focus on what is being said, how, and why
 - b) Write any questions
- 5) Circle Key Words
 - a) Look up/write definitions in Hebrew/Greek
 - b) Synonyms, antonyms, and root words
 - c) What do they say about who God is and His promises?
 - d) Discover underlying meaning in the verse: context of history, author, verses before, etc.

6) Application!

- a) I went over this with yall verbally, but you can also journal/write it down, etc.
- b) To start, use the acronym SPACEPETS, is there:

Sin to avoid

Promise to claim

Attitude to change

Command to obey

Error to avoid

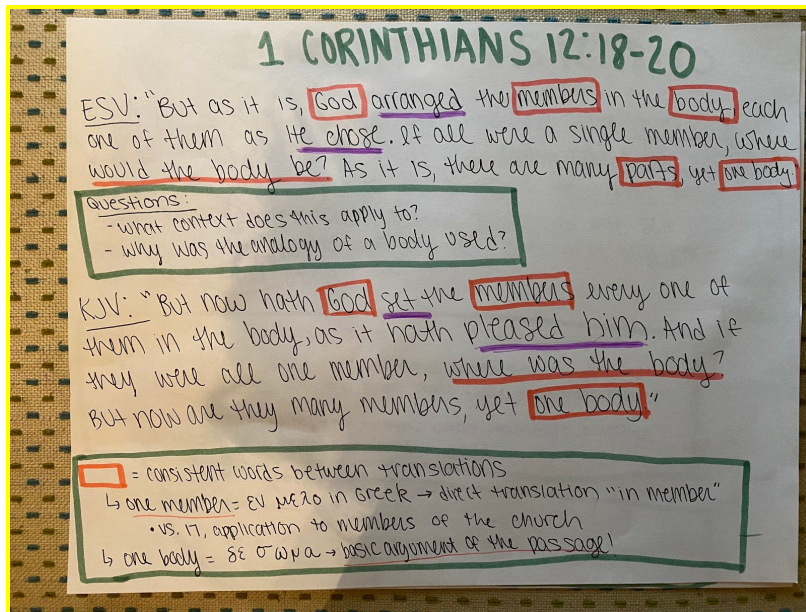
Prayer to pray

Example to follow

Truth to believe

Something to praise God for

Here is a picture of mine for reference. Remember, this is personal to you, so **everyones is going to look different!** P.S: if you cannot read my very bad handwriting, please let me know :)



1 CORINTHIANS 12:18-20

THE MESSAGE: "As it is, we see that God has carefully placed each part of the body right where he wanted it. But I also want you to think about how this keeps your significance from getting blown up into self-importance. For no matter how significant you are, it is only because you are a part of it."

completely
different

— = similar parts/synonyms

↳ vs. 18: arranged, placed, set → alt. synonyms: settled, situated, allocated
- God purposefully put the body parts where they were needed

↳ vs. 18: chose, pleased, wanted → alt. synonyms: content, appreciative, satisfied
- parallels to creation, God found it good!

[= completely distinct

↳ message offers a more "lesson" like view rather than on body itself
- shifts focus from God to us.

Glossary

Diversity: "means having a range of people with various racial, ethnic, socioeconomic, and cultural backgrounds and various lifestyles, experience, and interests. Diversity to me is the ability for differences to coexist together, with some type of mutual understanding or acceptance present."