
Study 4

What does it mean to belong?

Get Talking

1. If you were heading up a church or a ministry, how would you try to convince members to serve? What truths from the bible would you try to convince them of? What strategies would you use?
2. What would you say are some key markers of a person that is part of the body here at Emmanuel? (Someone who would say they belong here).

Investigate – Jesus as the head of the body

1. Who is the head of the body (Eph. 5:23-25; Col. 1:18-20) and how is one added to the body? Romans 12:3-4; 1 Cor 12:12-13 (Hint: look at the language of Spirit and *in* Christ)
2. Why is considering our relationship with Jesus the right starting point (vertical) before considering our horizontal relationships and responsibilities to one another?

Investigate – The Inseparable diverse Body

3. In 1 Corinthians 12:12–30, Paul uses the metaphor of the human body to explain the reality of spiritual gifts in the church. How does that metaphor contribute to our understanding of the diversity, unity, and equality of people and their gifts? (Look at Romans 12:3-8)

Investigate – The Serving Body

4. Looking at Romans 12:3-8 & 1 Cor 12:1-31. What does the variety of gifts tell us about how God has designed us to function as a body? What encouragement do you get from knowing that the Spirit has given us all gifts? What is the challenge?
5. Romans 12:5 says, "So we, who are many, are one body in Christ, and individually members one of another." What would it look like practically to live as people who belong to one another?
6. Each member has been given gracious gifts to serve the body of Christ. What gifts do you think God has graciously given you to serve others here at Emmanuel? Who could you ask to help you?
7. How do you know what you are gifted in? What are some helpful ways to figure out where God has gifted you?
8. What is your next step in serving the members of your Body in Christ?
9. How should we respond to the person who claims to belong to the body of Christ, but never actually serves the local body or feels they can live independently from it?