Think About …… "The Body of Christ"

Ephesians 2:8-9 *For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith--and this not from yourselves, it is the gift of God--not by works, so that no one can boast.*	**Questions:** 1. What is Grace? 2. What is faith?

1 Corinthians12:12-13 *The body is a unit, though it is made up of many parts; and though all its parts are many, they form one body. So it is with Christ. For we were all baptized by one Spirit into one body--whether Jews or Greeks, slave or free--and we were all given the one Spirit to drink.*	**Questions:** 1. When we are saved, what does God do with us? 2. What are the three items that are referred to with the concept of "one".

1 Corinthians 12:14-17 *Now the body is not made up of one part but of many. If the foot should say, "Because I am not a hand, I do not belong to the body," it would not for that reason cease to be part of the body. And if the ear should say, "Because I am not an eye, I do not belong to the body," it would not for that reason cease to be part of the body. If the whole body were an eye, where would the sense of hearing be? If the whole body were an ear, where would the sense of smell be?*	**Questions:** 1. What seems to be the focus of these verses? 2. What are the senses and what do they do for the body? 3. What other things does the body do? Think of your physical body.

1 Corinthians 12:18-20 *But in fact God has arranged the parts in the body, every one of them, just as he wanted them to be. If they were all one part, where would the body be? As it is, there are many parts, but one body.*	**Questions:** 1. Who designed and created all things? 2. Why did God make the body with so many systems, functions and purposes?

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1 Corinthians 12:21-25 *The eye cannot say to the hand, "I don't need you!" And the head cannot say to the feet, "I don't need you!" On the contrary, those parts of the body that seem to be weaker are indispensable, and the parts that we think are treated with special modesty, while our presentable parts need no special treatment. But God has combined the members of the body and has given greater honor to the parts that lacked it, so that there should be no division in the body, but that its parts should have equal concern for each other.*	**Questions:** 1. What is our natural, instinctive reaction when confronted with someone or something different? 2. What is our natural, instinctive reaction when confronted with someone or something that is embarrassing to us? 3. What would God want us to do and not do when someone is an embarrassment to us?

1 Corinthians 12:26-27 *If one part suffers, every part suffers with it; if one part is honored, every part rejoices with it. Now you are the body of Christ, and each one of you is a part of it.*	**Questions:** 1. Have you ever experienced a time or situation when someone with a disability has a success, against all odds? Please tell about what happened. 2. After reading these verses what can and should be the Church's view and response to someone who has a disability?

Acts 2: 42-46 *They devoted themselves to the Apostle's teaching and to the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer. Everyone was filled with awe, and many wonders and miraculous signs were done by the apostles. All the believers were together and had everything in common. Selling their possessions and goods, they gave to anyone as he had need. Everyday they continued to meet together in the temple courts. They broke bread in their homes and ate together with glad and sincere hearts.*	**Questions:** 1. What is God urging his people to do? 2. What takes place in worship?

Romans 12:1 *Therefore, I urge you, brothers, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as living sacrifices, holy and pleasing to God--this is your spiritual act of worship.*	**Questions:** 1. What is another aspect of worship according to this verse? 2. Where and when does this take place?

Ephesians 2:10 *For we are God's workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.*	**Questions:** 1. As God's people what is the purpose of our life prior to heaven? 2. How does this happen for a person with a disability? 3. What can the Church, your congregation, do to help people with a disability fulfill Romans 12:1?

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Ephesians 4: 11-13 *It was He who gave some to be apostles, some to be prophets, some to be evangelists, and some to be pastors and teachers. To prepare God's people for works of service, so that the body of Christ me be built up until we all reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of the Son of God and become mature, attaining to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ.*	**Questions:** 1. Who is responsible for equipping and training God's people? 2. What are we equipped or trained to do? 3. Why do we do this?

Notes:

Models of Interaction with People who are Disabled

Look at the various models of interaction currently utilized and discuss the pros and cons for your specific situation or context.

1. Medical Model. This is good for a first-line approach toward people who have just faced a physical loss. Modern medical technology continues to make great advances very quickly and this can provide medical assistance that wasn't previously available.

2. Rehab Model. This model works at rehabilitating a person so that they may be reintegrated into society, and especially into employment. It assumes that all people are able to work if given the proper training and the right tools.

3. Custodial Model. This model views people with a disability as incapable and severely limited in employment abilities, life skills, personal care, and, usually, all aspects of life.

4. Hero Model. This model views people with a disability as capable of doing almost anything.

5. Homogeneous Model. This model sees people who have a disability as wanting and needing to be together. It creates a separate environment for them. It believes that being together, they will understand one another, their needs and more able to meet them.

6. Inclusive Model. This model acknowledges that people with a disability have abilities and skills that can and should contribute to the whole of the community. It seeks to permit openings, outlets, or areas in which people may enter the community and contribute.

7. Holistic or Empowering Model. This model sees all people as important members of society and the kingdom of God, with or without a disability.

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