

**December 6th, Showing Up**  
**Part 2 in the series, 'Essential Services'**

What were some things from last Sunday's message that resonated with you?

Was there anything you wrestled with?

What are the two most essential things in our lives?

A: Our connection with God and our connections with one another.

Why do you think people often lose connection with one another in times of personal hardship?

**READ John 13:34-45**

A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another: just as I have loved you, you also are to love one another. **35** By this all people will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another."

How does knowing that Jesus loves us allow us to love others?

Verse 35 says 'By this all people will know that you are my disciples'... what do you think 'love for one another' looks like?

Explain the coal metaphor from the message.

**READ 1 Corinthians 12:12-26**

**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 or free—and all were made to drink of one Spirit.

Who is a part of this 'body' that Paul describes? Who is included?

Do you have to earn or complete a checklist of things to be a part of the body of Christ?

A: No, saved by grace through faith.

Think back to last week's message for a moment. What freedom is found in knowing that a) we didn't earn our way into the body and b) we are the branches and Jesus is the vine: apart from Him we can do nothing (John 15:5)?

**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, yet one body.

Would you agree that we often undervalue our role in the body because we think ‘it’s just such a small role’?

According to Paul’s metaphor, what would happen if every member of the church had the same gifts?

**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.

How does Paul’s metaphor encourage us to live in connection with one another?

Think of how a human body might react to pain in say, a toe or a hand or an eye. How does this help paint a picture of what connections with one another in the body of Christ are designed to look like, according to verse 26?