



## **“Letters to the Corinthians” Study Notes**

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### **Lesson 24: The Myth of Lone Ranger Christians**

#### **1 Corinthians 12:12-31**

Read Ephesians 4:1-16. What does Paul urge the believers to do? Who are they to “bear with”? What has God done to equip the body? Why does Paul say it is important for us to be connected to the actual body of Christ?

Read Hebrews 10:24-25. What are we to consider? What are we NOT to neglect? Why? Can you encourage your brothers and sisters in Christ with love and good works if you never actually are in the same physical location as they are? While we can encourage each other through social media, make no mistake: social media and online sermons are NOT a substitute for gathering together with a local body of believers.

Read Romans 12:4-13. How are we, as Christians, to function? What have we been given? How should we use these? How should we interact with our brothers and sisters in Christ?

Ladies, take some time today and consider some things. Why do you serve in your local church? Why do you not serve? (For example, why do you serve in one area, but not in another?) Is this good? Bad? Are your motives ones that honor God and the responsibilities He has given you, or are you seeking your own comfort or your own elevation? What gift have you been given to build up God’s people? Are you using that gift?

If you don’t think you have any gift from God today, you need to realize that you have a gift, even if you don’t think you do. What can YOU do to serve the body of Christ? Ask yourself what things would not matter to you if you were serving solely for the glory of God. Would you care if no one noticed what contribution you made? Would you care if there were no accolades or thankyou’s? What might that reveal about your motive for serving?

Thank God for His provision, ladies. If you are not in a local body of believers right now, why not? While there are legitimate reasons not to join in a fellowship, far too often we are so picky when things don’t line up exactly with what “we want” that we refuse to obey God’s clear command to not neglect the gathering together of the saints.

Ladies, ask God to humble you and help you to see where your pride might be getting in the way of your obedience. Ask Him to help you to desire to obey HIM above all. Ladies, if you are in a local church (as I would hope you are), thank God for that body.

Even when you disagree with things (and we all will disagree with decisions and policies and such), thank God for leading you to where you are at. Ask Him to help you to remain discerning, but also to remain obedient to Him, and not to separate from the body He has put you in for unbiblical reasons. Pray for your pastors and elders, and pray for “that one person” who you always seem to have friction with.

Remember, God is in the job of building up His body, and He’s very good at it. He has and always will preserve a remnant of those who are completely faithful to Him. Thank Him for that, ladies, and cling to HIM above all.