

**BIBLE BAPTIST CHURCH OF ERIE**  
**James M. Duncan, Pastor**  
**JULY 19, 2020**

**“GOING THE SECOND MILE  
IN CARING FOR ONE ANOTHER”**

**Hebrews 10:23-25; 1 Corinthians 12:14-26**

This term “*one another*” is from the Greek word “*allelon*” (al-lay-lone) meaning “*each other, mutual one another, together.*” It is used 76 times in the KJV. I am starting a series this morning on **Going The Second Mile – with One Another**. We learned last week from *Matt. 5:38-42* how important the second mile is as Jesus taught His disciples from the Sermon on the Mount. This morning I am speaking about **Caring for One Another** - next Sunday I will be speaking on **Loving One Another**. Over the next few weeks, we’re going to look a few of these significant actions and attitudes Christians ought to have toward one another as we Go The Second Mile with One Another.

Now turn in your Bibles to *1 Corinthians 12:14-26* where Paul says that every believer is a part of Christ’s body. In Romans, 1 and 2 Corinthians, Ephesians, and Colossians, Paul used the word body 30 times to illustrate the functioning of the church. Since the New Testament “*one another’s*” are largely focused on local churches, that will be the focus of our study in *1 Corinthians 12*. When you came in this morning you were **handed a puzzle piece** as a reminder that you are a valuable part of God’s picture for this church. Look at your puzzle piece as we walk through these principles. The first principle is...

**I. EACH PIECE IS A PART OF A UNITED WHOLE, BUT IS NOT UNIFORM**

Look at *V-14*. The word “*many*” carries the idea of “*abundance*” or “*much.*” It’s only when our many pieces come together that we can demonstrate a picture of God’s power.

**II. EACH PIECE IS ESSENTIAL AND NOT INFERIOR**

Look at *Vs. 15-17* Paul is addressing those of us who may feel inferior. He is establishing the truth that everyone is valuable and necessary. Are you listening??? The smaller pieces in God’s puzzle called the church are just as important as the more visible ones.

**III. EACH PIECE IS DIVINELY DESIGNED, NOT HUMANLY DEVELOPED**

Look at *V-18*. When we fully grasp this truth, we will experience freedom and joy like we’ve never had before. God made you just the way He wanted you! You have been designed to reflect His purposes! He has shaped you for spiritual significance! Your piece has a place right here in this church! You are part of the wonderful puzzle. (**Look at your puzzle piece...it is unique and important to the whole picture.**)

Notice that this verse says, “*Each/Every one of them.*” No matter how you feel this morning, you are not exempt from God’s exhilarating exhibition of His glory in the church. You are not disqualified because of something you’ve done or how inadequate you may feel.

**IV. EACH PIECE IS DISTINCT, AND YET NOT DEFORMED**

Paul now goes from *inferiority* to speaking to those who are filled with “**PRIDE**” in *V-21*. As you look at your portion of the puzzle and compare it with those around you, you’ll quickly discover that yours is designed differently, it is distinct. The shape of your piece and the location where it fits in God’s picture of the church is distinct from everyone else. You are **SPECIAL**, however, we must guard against thinking that we are **more special** than those around us. Now here is the last principle from this 12<sup>th</sup> chapter.

**V. EACH PIECE IS INTERCONNECTED, NOT INDEPENDENT**

The last part of *verse 24* establishes the principle of interconnectedness. Your puzzle piece is designed to lock together with those around you in order to form the picture that was designed by the Creator.

For better or for worse, *we’re stuck* with each other because *we’re stuck to each other.*

This welding together of lives within the body of Christ has two purposes.

- ◆ **First, according to the front half of verse 25 –**  
“*So that there should be no division in the body...*”
- ◆ **Second, as the last part of verse 25 says, we are co-mingled so that we can care for one another.**

**Biblical fellowship is “life-sharing.”** It’s the most intimate kind of in-depth camaraderie imaginable. It’s what is described in *Acts 4:32, 34-35.*

Now look at *verse 26*. When someone is hurting, we should rally together to help. I’m thankful that this church is known as a caring community. Some of you here this morning can attest to the support you’ve received when you were in need. Then *Verse 27* provides a great summary statement about the Body the local New Testament Church that Jesus loved I for *Ephesians 5:25.*

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