

For All a Part - 1 Corinthians 12.14-31 CTW: Colossians 3.15-17 pg 1002

Opening Illustration of Nascar – followed it in early 90s, #48 Dr Pepper Race Team. Don't remember drivers' names. Nascar like the church, many parts of Team Dr. Pepper, though driver gets glory of win. But in the Church, who is driver? Who gets the spot light? What they fought over.

1. Diversity breathes life (vs. 14-20)
 - a. Diversity is being Different. Car 48, if mechanic doesn't change tire just right, disastrous.
 - b. Just as the body is one, parts are many, with different job functions. Don't type with elbows, or drink with ears.
 - c. Verse 19 is key: where would the body be if all were same? Foot carries body to food, after eyes and nose find it, hands pick it, mouth intakes it, body digests it. Body can't live without different functions of many parts.
2. Diversity gives dependence (vs. 21-26)
 - a. Driver depends on the spotter to tell him what is going ahead and behind him, for his safety, and for his edge. Driver depends on rest of team.
 - b. Paul demonstrates need of hand to the eye. Eye can't pick up the food. How can the head get about without the feet?
 - c. Vs 22, refers back to 8,7-13 – weaker brethren even have usefulness to God's kingdom.
 - d. Mt 23.11 – Greatest is the servant or the least of all.
3. Diversity accomplishes God's Will. (vs. 27-31)
 - a. Remember God's Will is to spread the Good news, to bring others into the kingdom.
 - b. Gifts listed in this section are some of the gifts needed.
 - c. Bring to the church today: What is most important? Another view: any job in the church not needed? No little people, no little jobs. All are needed. Each gifted different from others, some extrovert, some prayerful introverts. Some are servants, some are pastors, some are teachers, some are cooks, some are organizers & some are just an ear to listen. You get the point.
 - d. Church was competing within. Yet Paul tells them to instead desire the better gift.
 - e. Comes back to uniting, doing our part. Next week, we look the better gift that Paul mentioned in last verse. CLOSE PRAYER