

RIVERSIDE ANGLICAN CHURCHES
QUESTIONS FOR DISCUSSION AND REFLECTION
Life Together – 4. Serving with gifts: Body Building

[LEADERS: This study is NOT focused on doing good for the community in general but specifically towards other Christians in your church. We will address the former in a few weeks. Please try to keep the study on the topic of loving our church body.]

1. Do you feel like you have a role in the church family? What is it? If not, why do you think that is?
2. Read 1 Cor. 12:4-6. Brainstorm as many different ways you think a Christian brother or sister can be served.
3. Read verse 7. Are there any of the things you suggested above that don't meet the criteria of "the common good"? How does Ephesians 4:12-16 help explain what the "common good" of Christ's body is?
4. Does Ephesians 4:12-16 explain why Paul's list in 1 Corinthians 12 puts word-ministries at the top of his list? Should some kinds of serving have priority over others?
5. The lists Paul gives in verses 4-10 and 28-31 are a mixture of supernatural and very normal activities. What place is there for natural skill and personal inclination in serving other Christians? Is there ever a reason not to serve in a particular way ("not my gifting")? How does Romans 12:3-8 help?
6. Read verses 12-20. What does this say about every Christian in church? Would anything happen to the church body if you did not play an active role in serving it? Why are you important to the church body?
7. Read verses 21-26. Think about the people you know best at church. Are they in a similar stage of life to you? Can we have equal concern for one another if we only know people like us?
8. How can we work harder at relationships of service with Christians who are different to us? What obstacles are there to this? What can you do this week and in coming Sundays to serve ALL the body – not just the ones like you?
9. Read Matthew 25:34-46. How do Jesus' words here reinforce the words of Paul in 1 Corinthians 12:27? How can this change how you approach serving Christians who are difficult?
10. Read 1 Corinthians 13:1-3. Paul warns against love-less service. How can we avoid this? What have we forgotten when we have served without love? (cf: Eph 5:25, John 13:34-35, Colossians 3:23-24)
11. Read John 13:1-17. Foot-washing is not pretty or convenient. What acts of service towards other Christians are equivalent to foot washing these days (ie: inconvenient, yucky, humbling ones)?
12. How would you explain to a new Christian why and how we need to serve other Christians?