



Mind

January 23, 2022

1 Corinthians 12:1-11

Connect

- How would you describe what it means to be mentally strong? Why?
- Share a story of a time that required the most attentive focus/concentration of your life. What was that experience like for you?

Engage

- Read *1 Corinthians 12:1-11*. Paul is writing to a church he started in Corinth and spent eighteen months as their founding leader. He got word that there was growing dissension and other problems brewing in the church and community since he left so he wrote them this letter. There was great disagreement and infighting within the church and Paul is pushing for unity. How do you see that push exhibited in what Paul says in this particular passage? Where does the Church/church need greater unity today?
- When it comes to spiritual gifts, what do you think yours may be? How are you utilizing that gift for the betterment of the Church and/or our community?
- Most people lean into the importance of one of three approaches to faith: *Right Belief (strong doctrine; search for Truth)*. *Right Experience (feeling of the Spirit in worship, prayer and beyond)*. or *Right Action (hands and feet of Christ; working for causes of justice)*. Certainly all of us find value in all three. However, if you had to identify one of the three that is most important to you, which one would it be and why?
- As a follow up to the above question, is a local church healthiest with a roughly equal number of people in each of the three categories or is it a strength for local churches to gravitate to one of the three. Why?
- Scientific writer, Annie Murphy Paul, has written a book called "*The Extended Mind: The Power of Thinking Outside the Brain.*" She challenges us to tap into the intelligence that exists beyond our brains – in our bodies, in our surroundings and in our relationships. What value do you see in this extended mind? How is it exhibited in your life?

Next Steps

- Identify your dominant faith category – *Right Belief*, *Right Experience*, or *Right Action*. Lean into your strength and be sure you are bringing that gift to the world. Identify friends or others you know who may be stronger in the other two categories. Get together and discuss how your varied gifts might work together to strengthen the overall effort as opposed to push against each other in competition for who's most "right".

Pray

- "Give me a strong mind, O Lord. Open me to your wisdom and that of others that I might expand my horizons and extend my mind to the far reaches of your desires for all of humankind. Amen."