



That All May Flourish
October 24, 2022
1 Corinthians 12:20-26

Connect:

- The message begins by recalling an experience of participating in a Down's Syndrome awareness walk. Reflect on a time when you shared a positive experience with someone of differing abilities.
- What skills, abilities, or gifts do you excel in? What sorts of things could you do with a little support or adaptation? Have you ever encountered a barrier that prevented your own giftedness from flourishing?

Engage

- The city of Corinth was a tough place! In fact, the city's slogan read, "Not for everyone is the journey to Corinth!" Corinth was a fiercely competitive commercial center and trade route where worship of mammon ruled! Social inequality and economic injustice were baked into society. The city was home to twelve Greek temples the most famous of which was dedicated to the Greek Goddess Aphrodite whose worshippers were known to practice religious prostitution. In fact, Corinth's reputation for sexual immorality was so widely known the term "to corinthize" meant to practice sexual deviousness! Why do you think Paul chose a city like Corinth to be one of his earliest missionary outposts?
- Sunday's message invites us to reflect on how we think about ability and disability. What comes to your mind when you hear that word "disability"? How might we need to reframe this term going forward?
- The healing narratives of the Gospels reveal what God desires for true community. Jesus' healing went beyond the person and sought to remove the social and religious barriers that marginalized one in the first place. What barriers need to be broken and healed in our church and world so that those on the margins might enter more fully into the life of our community?
- French Philosopher and founder of the L'Arche Movement, Jean Vanier, says, "Each human being, however small or weak, has something to bring to humanity. As we start to really get to know others, as we begin to listen to each other's stories, things begin to change. We begin the movement from exclusion to inclusion, from fear to trust, from closedness to openness, from judgment and prejudice to forgiveness and understanding. It is a movement of the heart." Respond.

Next Steps:

- Take time this week to listen to the faith story of a person with differing abilities. Call a friend you know or read an account online. Create space to simply receive their experience with an open heart.
- Register for Broadway's upcoming "Community Conversation" exploring inclusion and disability in the faith community. All info on BCC's website!

Pray:

- *Spirit of the Living God! We celebrate the beautiful diversity that we are as your Body in the world. Continue to guide us, unite us, and animate us so that we might embody a church where everyone's ability can flourish! Amen!*