

## *Study Guide*

**Study Scripture:** I Corinthians 12.27  
**Building a Christ-centered Community** – Part 2  
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**Objective:** to build a Christ-centered community, a group of Christ followers whose **identity, unity,** and **mission** in life are rooted in Jesus Christ, living for **His glory** above all else (culture, race, politics, personality, or preferences).

### **I Corinthians 12.27.**

Now you are the **body of Christ**,

- We collectively form the Body of Christ (community)
- Our identity is rooted in Him (self, values, worth)
- We represent Him on earth (purpose)

and **members individually.**

- Each member has individual responsibility
- Each member has personal value
- Each person needs the other

‘Your Identity in Christ comes with being part of His Body, the community of Christ. You cannot follow Christ without being actively involved in the Body of Christ.’

1. Christ-centered \_\_\_\_\_: points to carrying out God’s redemptive plan in the world, by proclaiming the gospel, making disciples, calling sinners to repent, to trust, to obey, and to follow Christ.

### **Matthew 28.19-20**

- Make disciples (repent/faith/follow)
  - Baptize (initiate into His body)
  - Teach (commands in Christ)
2. Christ-centered \_\_\_\_\_: points to revealing Christ throughout the Scriptures, maturing followers in His identity and equipping them to live according to that identity. II Corinthians 5.17, Colossians 1.28
  3. Christ-centered \_\_\_\_\_: points to extending the daily grace (favor) Christ gives us to one another. John 13.34-35, Acts 4.32

Agape is selfless love that produces the fruit of the spirit (kindness, long-suffering, gentleness, self-control, joy, peace, faithfulness, etc.) of how we treat one another. When we extend to one another the daily grace we have received from Christ, we reveal to the world the supernatural work of God among us.

4. Christ-centered \_\_\_\_\_: points to the Body caring faithfully for one another. From that foundation, we extend Christ's compassion outward to our neighbors, serving others as a visible expression of the gospel. Proverbs 31.8-9, Mark 12.31, Matthew 5.16, I Corinthians 10.31

**Dangers:**

- Church being absorbed into ideological movements
- Social causes redefining the church's identity
- Mission shifting from Christ crucified to cultural reform
- Church must not become a political instrument

**Early Persecuted Church:**

- Countercultural
- Holy – separate, distinct in conduct
- Unified across ethnic lines
- Centered on Christ, not Caesar
- Social action to outsiders (Romans)

5. Christ-centered \_\_\_\_\_: points to the gospel's power to reconcile people from every culture into one body. Our unity does not erase our differences but redeems them, displaying the reconciling work of Christ in His church.

- **Power of the gospel's salvation – Romans 1.16**
- **Ministry of reconciliation – 2 Corinthians 5.18**
- **Social transformation – I Corinthians 12.13**
- **Heavenly celebration – Revelation 7.9-10**

**Reaffirming Christ-centered community:**

- Preach Christ
- Love one another deeply
- Live holy lives
- Care for the needy without losing mission
- Obey God rather than men

**REFLECTION:**

1. Are we actively extending to one another the same grace Christ has given us, especially in moments of conflict or difference?
2. Is Christ truly the center of our relationships, decisions, and priorities or have other preferences and personalities taken His place?
3. Does our community reflect the unity and diversity of the body of Christ in a way that serves as a witness to the world?