

five|allies

12 For just as the body is one and has many members, and all the members of the body, though many, are one body, so it is with Christ.

1 Corinthians 12

It is easy to believe the lie that...

It is better to work alone.

The true body of Christ only goes to my church because we've got it all right. The 'believer' down the street will probably mess up my hard relational work.

Instead, we can believe that:

1) A portion of the body of Christ might be closer than we think.

As we deepen relationship with our neighbors, we will potentially discover other followers of Jesus. In terms of friendship, this relationship could be an unexpected gift that the Lord provides. In terms of mission, this could be a new ally...even in the pursuit of 'the 7'. Imagine if a gospel partnership could be formed between homes, families, students, and the like? As the epicenter grows, so does the opportunity.

2) No eye can say to the hand I have no need of you.

There are many sinful reasons we dismiss others in the body of Christ; local church loyalty, difference of expression, and assumptions we make about 'their church' are just a few. We must repent of those sinful walls and seek allies around 1 common denominator: Jesus. If Jesus is center, Savior, Lord, and the only means of salvation, then we can celebrate our differences as we work together for Christ.

3) Salvation within the 7 creates new allies.

One of the most powerful moments in our relationship with Christ is when we witness God begin to soften a heart and eventually save someone around us. Wouldn't it be incredible if this became more commonplace instead of a rarity? Think about this: you begin to pray for and pursue a neighbor. They begin to follow Jesus and join you in the missional effort with other neighbors...while you disciple them in their growth. God, please make it so!

Question to consider:

In what ways are you dismissing others in the body of Christ?

Action to take:

> If there are known followers of Christ living around you, set up times to pray, collaborate, and enjoy fellowship.

