

**Series** - Be Wise  
**Topic** - Everybody is Somebody in His Body  
(1 Corinthians 12:12-30)

**Date** - 13 Oct 2019  
**Speaker** - SP Ben KC Lee

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## WELCOME [15 min]

You may want to look up the following websites for icebreakers suitable for your cell.

[Ice Breakers 1](#)

[Ice Breakers 2](#)

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## WORSHIP [15 min]

You may select songs like “Sing To The King”, “Highest Praise”, “Pilgrimage” or “When Jesus Comes Again”.

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## WORD [45 min]

### Spiritual Objectives

At the end of the sermon discussion, cell members will:

1. Embrace one another as uniquely designed and gifted by the Holy Spirit for building up the church.
2. Recognise that there is no unimportant member in the body of Christ. All have equal value in the eyes of God.

### Sermon Summary

1. The physical body is one unit made up of many parts. Likewise, the body of Christ is one entity made up of many members.
2. Don't underestimate or overestimate your importance to the body. God gives special honours to the seemingly unimpressive parts, and He gives no special treatment to the clearly presentable parts.
3. The diversity in the body works towards unity and fulfillment of God's purposes. We are to desire every gift, not for personal gain, but to bless the body of Christ.

### Sermon Recap (Full Summary)

1. As the physical body is one unit made up of many parts, the body of Christ is one entity with many members making up a whole (vv 12-13). When we become Christians, we become “one with Christ”, and consequently we become one with everyone else who is one with Christ. Just as the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit are one in the Trinity, and a married couple becomes one in the flesh, we are baptised by one Spirit into one body.

The Holy Spirit now dwells in us as we dwell in Christ. (See Romans 6:3-5)

2. Never underestimate your importance to the body (vv 14-20). Don't think lowly of your part in the body. Every part of the body is needed. Even if you are old or ill, and whether you work in the public eye or behind the scenes, you have an important role in God's Kingdom. God knows where we best fit in the body. Every part is critical to fulfilling the mission of God. (See 1 Peter 4:10-11)
3. Never overestimate your importance to the body (vv 21-26). There is no room in God's Kingdom for spiritual pride. What we do will affect others in the body of Christ. We are not better because our gifts are more public. We are not less important because our gifts are more behind the scenes.. God gives us the honours as He chooses. When one part of the body is honoured, every part rejoices. When one part suffers, every part grieves.
4. The working diversity of our gifts fulfills God's will in the body (vv 27-31). After showing us from the preceding verses that no gift is less important than another, Paul seems to contradict himself by ranking three gifts in order of importance in verse 28. He also says to "eagerly desire" the "greater gifts" in verse 31. To make sense of these verses, we need to recognise that apostles and prophets were essential in the founding of the early church, and teachers were needed to establish believers in the faith, and "greater gifts" were vital for building up the young church.

### **Conclusion**

1. We are baptised in one Spirit into one body and given one mission, i.e. to make disciples of all nations.
2. We must do away with both a spiritual inferiority complex and a spiritual superiority complex in the body of Christ. There are no nobodies and there are no "super" Christians. We must celebrate the diversity and work for unity in the body.
3. Our spiritual gifts give a clue to our calling. But we cannot know what God has given us unless we start to serve. At the same time, we are to desire gifts that will bless one another and build up the church.

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### **Discussion Questions**

1. **On average, a church typically has only has about 15-20% of its members serving in a ministry. What do you think are some reasons why people shy away from serving in a ministry? What do you think the church would look like if 70% of its members are serving in a ministry?** [15 min]

#### **Leader's Notes:**

*This question serves as an introduction to the topic of diversity of gifts. Encourage your members (those who are not serving) to share on their struggles to serve in a ministry. This is not a time to shame those who are not serving but to understand their struggles. The reasons maybe genuine – nature of job, family life, sicknesses, etc. Also, we want to acknowledge that there are reasons that may not be the best – too busy with life pursuits, serving is for those who are more talented, "I'm not the serving type.", etc.*

*The second part of the question is to paint the picture of a glorious church. If all of us are*

*-serving regardless of position and strengths – meeting the areas of needs within the church, the church will grow from strength to strength. Which means, more people are built up, more people are reached out, more cells are birthed, more people to meet pastoral needs, etc. In short, the church moves closer to her fullest potential.*

*Encourage those who are not serving with this – sometimes, we make a decision before trying it out. In a sense, we admit defeat even before we begin. Encourage them to try out serving in a ministry – they might be surprised to learn that they can actually manage their current life-load as well as their ministry. Also, they would then discover the joys of ministry – growing by serving others and participating in the mission of God more. (You can mention the various ministry needs in the church as indicated below)*

#### Transition (Wrapping Up & Moving to The Next Question)

The church can be glorious if all gifts within the house are at use. That is why God gave a variety of gifts so that everyone can be involved in His work in the church. Therefore, last Sunday’s message is important for us – no one should feel more important or less important as a result of their gifts.

- 2. Read 1 Corinthians 12:12-31. Paul addressed two groups of Christians in this passage: Those who underestimate their spiritual gifts and those who overestimate theirs. Have you ever felt like an unneeded or unimportant part of the cell or team? What did you do about it? What would this passage be teaching you to do?** [15 min]

#### Leader’s Notes:

*This is a reflect and relate question for members to look in the mirror and share how they see themselves in the cell or in the church context. Verses 15-20 are addressed to those who think their gifts are inferior and unimportant. The more spectacular gifts such as speaking in tongues and healing may have been glorified in the church, causing those without these gifts to feel inferior, which may result in the person not serving or even leaving church. Encourage members in this group to never believe this lie but instead embrace all their gifts as equally important in the sight of God. Verses 21-26 are addressed to those who think their gifts are superior and more important. If there is anyone in this group who is willing to confess – first commend the person for being honest! – then exhort everyone to exercise all their gifts, not to appear “spiritual”, but for the good of the whole. See 1 Peter 5:1-3 and Hebrews 10:24-25.*

*Pastor Ray Stedman has a great article relevant to this discussion, called “How the Body Works”. Encourage members to read it for further reflection.*

<https://www.raystedman.org/new-testament/1-corinthians/how-the-body-works>

#### Transition (Wrapping Up & Moving to The Next Question)

Everybody is somebody in Christ’s body. There are no unimportant or unnecessary parts in a body. All parts, however diverse, have roles to play in building up a unified body to fulfill the purposes of God. Let’s commit to play our roles.

- 3. In light of today’s discussion, what mindset do you need to change when you see these 2 groups of believers in the church – those who are talented and very visible, and those who are seemingly less talented and behind the scenes?** [15 min]

#### Leader’s Notes:

*This is a response question for members to commit to change their patterns of thinking*

*in reagrds to these 2 groups of people. For the first group, the general response should be not to "idolise" them or to think that they are "more anointed". All the gifts in the house contribute to the purposes of God to build the church. For the seconnd group, the general mindset should be not to overlook these individuals in the church (carpark marshalls, communnion preparers, Children's Ministry teachers, etc). Their roles are important for the church to function. Therefore, our hearts of gratitude should extend to them as well; not just to the super-talented few.*

*RiverLife Church does not stand on just the talents of a few, but on the sacrifice, faithfulness and willingness of the many!*

#### Transition (Wrapping Up, Vision Casting to Cell & Closing The Discussion)

Conclude by reminding members that we are to earnestly desire spiritual gifts (v 31), not for ourselves but to bless others. Although the Holy Spirit gives us the gifts, it is good and proper for us to desire them, and to ask for them, all in submission to the purposes of God.

You might also want to consider doing a cell roster where different members can serve in different aspects of cell (leading worship, leading word, refreshments, prayer, etc) so that we can all use our gifts to strengthen the church!

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## WORKS [10 min]

Let's pray:

1. We will grow in unity of purpose and relationship in the cell and in church.
2. We will increase in diversity of gifts and calling to bless the body of Christ and the nations.

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## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### 1) 2019 Equipping Weekends (season 2)

#### **i. We are sent @ Christmas**

Sun, 3 Nov | 2-5pm | Victory Chapel

We highly encourage you to participate in this equipping as a cell group so that groups can be equipped together for this Christmas outreach season.

#### **ii. Introduction to biblical interpretation**

Sun, 10 Nov | 2-5pm | Victory Chapel

Registration can be done online at [bit.ly/rlcequipping2019](http://bit.ly/rlcequipping2019)

### 2) Joining The Family

Sat, 16 Nov | 10am-1pm | Faith Chapel

Becoming a church member means making RiverLife your spiritual home and committing to what God is doing here. This is an invitation to a solid commitment and influence as we

follow Christ together and share in God's movements in Singapore.

Sign up online at [bit.ly/rlcjoiningthefamily](https://bit.ly/rlcjoiningthefamily) by Sun, 10 Nov. For more information, please contact Karen Koh at [karenkoh@riverlife.org.sg](mailto:karenkoh@riverlife.org.sg).

### **3) RiverLife Serves**

Sign up to serve at [bit.ly/riverlifeserves](https://bit.ly/riverlifeserves) (for details pls refer below)

**Church Vision**

“A radiant disciple-making church catalysing Kingdom transformation in our communities and the nations.”

**Mission**

We exist to make disciples who behold Christ and reveal Him.

# RiverLife Serves

“A spiritual gift is given to each of us so we can help each other.”  
*1 Corinthians 12:7*

Discover your God-given gifts by serving in a ministry team! Each of our teams play their unique role to build and support the church in living out our mission and values.

## **SIGN UP TO SERVE AT [bit.ly/riverlifeserves](https://bit.ly/riverlifeserves)**

RiverLifers who serve should:

- Be part of a cell group for at least six months
- Commit to serve at least once a month



## **1. CARE MINISTRIES**

Our Care ministries provide pastoral care in various aspects for our church family. These ministries are channels through which God’s love and healing can flow.

### **• 9M MINISTERS**

9M Ministry is a community of women committed to journey and support expectant mothers and their spouses through prayer, encouragement and practical advice throughout the pregnancy, birth of her child and during confinement.

### **• AMBASSADORS FOR ALPHA**

Develop friendship with pre-believers or new believers who are attending the Alpha course by engaging them in meaningful and inspiring conversations about our faith.

### **• AMBASSADORS FOR RIVERLIFE KINDERGARTEN**

RiverLife Kindergarten is an extension of RiverLife Church to nurture children and inculcate Christian moral values in them. Many pre-believing families send their children to the Kindergarten and this provides an opportunity for the church to connect with them. Partner us to reach out and build relationships with these families through the Kindergarten’s special events and activities.

## 2. CELL GROUP MINISTRY

- **CELL GROUP HOSTS**

Hosts open their home (or another space) for a cell group and provide a safe, clean and welcoming environment for the weekly gatherings. We are in need of venues in the eastern and north-eastern regions particularly in Serangoon and Punggol.

## 3. CHILDREN MINISTRY

Do you love interacting with children and desire to play a part in moulding their hearts and minds? Serving in the Children Ministry provides the opportunity for you to sow seeds of faith and invest in the lives of our next generation.

- **SMALL GROUP TEACHERS**

Like the role of a Cell Leader, our Small Group Teachers speak into the lives of our young ones and teach the Word of God by facilitating discussion during small group time. SuperLife worship gatherings run every Sunday concurrently with English Adults gatherings at 9am & 11.30am.

Levels: Cradle Roll (0-36 months old), Nursery (3-4 years old) and Primary

*Teachers are required to be above 18 years old and serve twice a month for at least a year.*

## 4. HOSPITALITY

Is serving others your second nature? If you enjoy people and find joy in lending a helping hand, serve in the Hospitality ministry to provide a warm church family experience for RiverLifers and our guests.

- **CHEFS / CHEF'S ASSISTANT @ VOLUNTEERS' CORNER**

Our Volunteers' Corner at the Roof Terrace dishes out hearty breakfast for those who serve on Sundays. If you're passionate about serving others and love cooking, join our team! We are also in need of assistants to help pack and clean up the volunteers' corner after it closes at 11.45am.

- **FIRST AIDER**

Provide medical assistance during services or special services when required.

- **INFORMATION COUNTER ASSISTANTS**

Handle enquiries from the church family and our visitors on Sundays at the Information Counter. Facilitate registration of courses, events and seminars.

- **SECURITY PERSONNEL**

Security personnel play a part in making our church premises a safe place by keeping watch over the compound and helping in situations when security assistance is required.

- **TRAFFIC MARSHALS**

Take this opportunity to work in the frontline! Facilitate the flow of vehicles in and out of the church carpark and building. Look out for those in need and ensure a seamless church experience for them.

- **USHERS**

The first point of contact our congregants and visitors have is with our friendly ushers. They make our church family feel welcomed and at home through warm greetings, friendly handshakes and contagious smiles!

## **5. TECHNICAL & PRODUCTION**

The Technical & Production ministry is an integral part of our weekly worship gatherings. Serving in partnership with the Holy Spirit, the team supports an atmosphere of worship in which our congregants can encounter God.

- **LIVE VIDEO CREW**

You will join the team that is responsible for weekly multi-camera production in our English Adult and Youth services as well as special events/projects. The work requires an interesting mix of creative and technical skills. For any live production, there will always be a director, a team of cameramen and a vision mixer.

- **PHOTOGRAPHERS**

Our photographers capture what God is doing in our worship gatherings and special events.

- **STAGE MANAGERS**

Swift and resourceful Stage Managers are needed to run our weekly worship gatherings and church events. They coordinate with various groups of people involved in the service or event, ensuring a seamless flow of the overall programme. Strong people skills, attention to details and a creative inclination would be an advantage.