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Central Congregational Church
"For the Glory of God and the Good of our Neighbors"
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A New Way to be Human

1 Corinthians 12:1-31

Series: Following Jesus in the Real World

Central Passage

1 Corinthians 12:4–11 (ESV) — **4** Now there are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit; **5** and there are varieties of service, but the same Lord; **6** and there are varieties of activities, but it is the same God who empowers them all in everyone. **7** To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good...**11** All these are empowered by one and the same Spirit, who apportions to each one individually as he wills.

Central Thought: Through Christ, you have been uniquely gifted and empowered by the Spirit of God with specific abilities through which you have the opportunity and the responsibility to work for the glory of God and the good of your neighbors.

- ❖ Every ability we have – spiritual or natural – comes from God. (vs.4-6,11)

James 1:16–18 (ESV) — **16** Do not be deceived, my beloved brothers. **17** Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shadow due to change. **18** Of his own will he brought us forth by the word of truth, that we should be a kind of firstfruits of his creatures.

- ❖ Every ability we have is meant for the benefit of others. (v.7)

Philippians 2:3–5 (ESV) — **3** Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility count others more significant than yourselves. **4** Let each of you look not only to his own interests, but also to the interests of others. **5** Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus,

- ❖ Every ability we have is unique to us! (vs.7-10)

Psalms 139:13–16 (ESV) — **13** For you formed my inward parts; you knitted me together in my mother's womb. **14** I praise you, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made. Wonderful are your works; my soul knows it very well. **15** My frame was not hidden from you, when I was being made in secret, intricately woven in the depths of the earth. **16** Your eyes saw my unformed substance; in your book were written, every one of them, the days that were formed for me, when as yet there was none of them.

- ❖ Together, we are God's new humanity – the body of Christ in the world today! (vs.12-31)

1 Corinthians 12:27 (ESV) — **27** Now you are the body of Christ and individually members of it.

Romans 12:3–8 (ESV) — **3** For by the grace given to me I say to everyone among you not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think, but to think with sober judgment, each according to the measure of faith that God has assigned. **4** For as in one body we have many members, and the members do not all have the same function, **5** so we, though many, are one body in Christ, and individually members one of another. **6** Having gifts that differ according to the grace given to us, let us use them: if prophecy, in proportion to our faith; **7** if service, in our serving; the one who teaches, in his teaching; **8** the one who exhorts, in his exhortation; the one who contributes, in generosity; the one who leads, with zeal; the one who does acts of mercy, with cheerfulness.