

What are you good at that builds people up and shines for Jesus?  
What are your passions?  
What is already open to you? Are there needs you see in the community that you can meet?  
What do others tell you that you are good at?  
Which of your undertakings have you seen God bless in fruitfulness?

*1 Corinthians 13:1-3 NLT - 1 If I could speak all the languages of earth and of angels, but didn't love others, I would only be a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal. 2 If I had the gift of prophecy, and if I understood all of God's secret plans and possessed all knowledge, and if I had such faith that I could move mountains, but didn't love others, I would be nothing. 3 If I gave everything I have to the poor and even sacrificed my body, I could boast about it; but if I didn't love others, I would have gained nothing.*

The love described in the bible is not merely a feeling. It is the “Why” behind everything we do, and the vehicle through which every action is delivered. If we are not motivated by God’s love in what we do, Paul tells us it means nothing. So let God’s love fill and empower you to play your part in the Church body.

## WRAP-UP

The church isn’t a place, it is the body of Christ who is our head. The body of believers is uniquely crafted by God with diverse giftings and roles for each member. Every one is indispensable. We belong to each other for the mutual building up of the body. And the motive and power in which we do our part is God’s love.

## MEMORY VERSE

*If I gave everything I have to the poor and even sacrificed my body, I could boast about it; but if I didn't love others, I would have gained nothing.*  
- 1 Corinthians 13:3 NLT

## PRAYER (20 MIN)

Ask your group to pray for you regarding one area where you can apply this study in your life.

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*Challenge- Do you think you have identified your gift and role in the body? What opportunity do you have today to use that gift to honor and love others?*

## “Play Your Part” Spread the Love #3

### INTRODUCTION

When you think of New Life Church what comes to mind? Is it that big building on the hill? What is the church? Maybe a better question would be who is the church? As we will discover in this study the church was never meant to be a place. It was meant to be a community, a body of believers. And if New Life is your church, then you have a part to play in this community of believers. It takes all of us collectively making our unique contributions for this body of believers to function the way God intended it to.

### Ice Breaker

Do you have a favorite dish from a restaurant that has the perfect recipe and nothing else even comes close?

### Key Passage

*1 Corinthians 12:27 NLT - 27 All of you together are Christ's body, and each of you is a part of it.*

### STUDY QUESTIONS

#### 1. The Body of Christ

*Ephesians 1:22-23 NLT - 22 God has put all things under the authority of Christ and has made him head over all things for the benefit of the church. 23 And the church is his body; it is made full and complete by Christ, who fills all things everywhere with himself.*

When he wrote to the Ephesians, Paul used the analogy of the church as a body.

*What does Paul tell us about the head of our church body?*

It is interesting that Paul notes Jesus is the head for the benefit of the church. Without a head, the body could not function. A body that ignores what the head tells it is destined for disaster. But Jesus has

authority over all things pertaining to His body.  
So, are you a part of New Life Church? If so, you have a part to play.

*Romans 12:4-5 NLT - 4 Just as our bodies have many parts and each part has a special function, 5 so it is with Christ's body. We are many parts of one body, and we all belong to each other.*

*Think of the many different roles people have at New Life. List as many as you can. Which are the "behind the scenes" roles? Which don't happen on Sundays only? What role would you say you are playing right now?*

## 2. Everyone is Gifted

*Romans 12:6-10 NLT - 6 In his grace, God has given us different gifts for doing certain things well. So if God has given you the ability to prophesy, speak out with as much faith as God has given you. 7 If your gift is serving others, serve them well. If you are a teacher, teach well. 8 If your gift is to encourage others, be encouraging. If it is giving, give generously. If God has given you leadership ability, take the responsibility seriously. And if you have a gift for showing kindness to others, do it gladly. 9 Don't just pretend to love others. Really love them. Hate what is wrong. Hold tightly to what is good. 10 Love each other with genuine affection, and take delight in honoring each other.*

Maybe you have never heard the idea that we are all one body, and that we "belong to each other." In other words, you are here to build others up, and they are here for you. When we do our part in the body of Christ, verse 10 says we are expressing genuine love for others.

*In Romans 12:6 Paul says God has given us gifts for doing certain things well. The list that follows is not exhaustive, but it might be a good starting place. What are the things you do well? Are there any in this list you think you might be gifted in? Ask those in your group what they have found you do well. Now how would you be able to use those gifts for the common good or to build others up, and show Jesus' love through them?*

*1 Corinthians 12:18-22 NLT - 18 But our bodies have many parts, and God has put each part just where he wants it. 19 How strange a body would be if it had only one part! 20 Yes, there are many parts, but only one body. 21 The eye can never say to the hand, "I don't need you." The head can't say to the feet, "I don't need you." 22 In fact, some parts of the body that seem weakest and least important are actually the most necessary.*

*Maybe when you made your list of roles in the church you began with Pastor. Some roles are certainly more obvious, but what does Paul tell us about the importance of the diverse gifts we contribute? What if your gift is a behind the scenes gift?*

Maybe you feel compelled to go to God in prayer for others. Even if nobody sees you, your gift is indispensable, and you are a part of this body so that your unique calling benefits us all.

## 3. How Can I Help?

*1 Corinthians 12:27-31 NLT - 27 All of you together are Christ's body, and each of you is a part of it. 28 Here are some of the parts God has appointed for the church: first are apostles, second are prophets, third are teachers, then those who do miracles, those who have the gift of healing, those who can help others, those who have the gift of leadership, those who speak in unknown languages. 29 Are we all apostles? Are we all prophets? Are we all teachers? Do we all have the power to do miracles? 30 Do we all have the gift of healing? Do we all have the ability to speak in unknown languages? Do we all have the ability to interpret unknown languages? Of course not! 31 So you should earnestly desire the most helpful gifts. But now let me show you a way of life that is best of all.*

Once again we find that Paul has given us a list of some of the parts of God's church. He concludes by saying, we don't all fulfill all of these roles, but that we should desire "the greatest" or "the most helpful" gift.

You may be asking yourself, what is the greatest or most helpful gift? It is the one God has placed in you. God provides you with what you need for where He has placed you. So here are some questions to help you discover what that is for you: