

October 10, 2021

6. The Church as One Body — **1 Corinthians 12:12-31 NRSV**

Did you know that scientists are still discovering previously unknown parts of the human body? It's true. We can put a person on the moon but still haven't located and identified the function of every part of us. For example, read about these recently identified parts (links below):

- The interstitium is a shock-absorbing network of fluid-filled sacs underneath the skin, gut, and blood vessels.¹
- Doctors never understood why patients with ACL surgery couldn't recover stability until they discovered another ligament (ALL) at the front of the knee.²
- A set of hidden tubarial glands could provide cancer-treated people with greater comfort.³

So, what insight does this give into 1 Corinthians 12? Paul says we are all one body. We are interwoven and need one another. One person cannot exercise alone all the gifts the world needs. Together, we function with different gifts and abilities by the Spirit to act and serve as Christ would have if on earth.

I must wonder, who are the yet-to-be-discovered members of the body of Christ? Who are the shock-absorber interstitia (protector-comforters), the undetected ligaments (healers and uniters), the hidden tubarial glands (improvers of quality of life)? Are people sitting next to you in church longing to know where they fit, where they can serve? Are those in the congregation with greater visibility and honor willing to discern others' gifts and bring them to light?

What God says in Psalm 139:13–15 is true for Christ's earthly body as well as the body (us) he left on earth: "For you created my inmost being. . . . I praise you because I am fearfully and wonderfully made. . . . My frame was not hidden from you when I was made in the secret place."

Let us give thanks for every part of the body and give it the honor it is due.

—Helen Tellez

helentellez@comcast.net

¹. Kashmira Gander, "[What Is the Interstitium? Scientists 'Discover New Organ,'](#)" *Newsweek.com*, [March 27, 2018](#).

². "[New Ligament Discovered in Human Knee](#)," *MedicineNet*, [November 7, 2013](#).

³. Rhythma Kaul, "[New glands found in the human body . . . in 2020!](#)" *msn.com*, [October 21, 2020](#).



Helen Tellez has been a writer, editor, and copy editor for church and secular organizations for more than four decades. Formerly from northern Indiana, she now resides in Harrisburg, Pennsylvania, with her husband, José, where they run a clothing alterations business. Being married to José for 18 years has opened her eyes to the world beyond rural, white America, and she is grateful for the changes in her Christian perspective.

Resources for this session

Salt & Light Videos

These teaching videos are great for leader preparation or introducing each session. They are available on [MennoMedia's YouTube channel](#). **Naomi Yoder** is the presenter for Unit 2, Church Means Assembly. She serves on the pastoral team of East Goshen Mennonite Church in Indiana.