



WEEK 2 DEVOTIONAL

A PERFECT PAIR | Accepting and Appreciating Differences

RECEIVE

Take a few moments to meditatively read 1 Corinthians 12:12–27. Before and after reading, create space to settle your soul and to listen, with a minute of silence.

REFLECT

1. Think of a few of the important relationships you have right now. Say them out loud or write a few of them down in front of you to name them. What phase of relationship best characterizes each of them?
 - The Fawning (in Romance) Phase—I love you because...
 - The Learning (of Differences) Phase—I love you if...
 - The Yearning (for Union) Phase—I love you in spite of...
2. What kind of love do you sense is the driving force of your life on most days? What do you discern effects it? How easily is it effected?
 - Eros (a passion for my own pleasure and fulfillment)
 - Philia (a desire to know others and get along)
 - Agape (a yearning toward union with God and people)How do you feel about this?

3. What are some of your greatest strengths and gifts? Was this an easy or difficult exercise for you? Why is that?

4. What is it about you that is limited without the gifts that others bring? Where in your life can others help you grow?

RESPOND

What is it about the people around you that needs to be celebrated? List one or two people and the things about each of them that you are going to be sure to name and celebrate about and with them.

- First friend to celebrate and why:

- Second friend to celebrate and why:

Give them a loving surprise in their mailbox this week by sending them a handwritten note telling them how and why you appreciate them.

1 Corinthians 12:12–27 | New International Version

¹² Just as a body, though one, has many parts, but all its many parts form one body, so it is with Christ. ¹³ For we were all baptized by one Spirit so as to form one body—whether Jews or Gentiles, slave or free—and we were all given the one Spirit to drink. ¹⁴ Even so the body is not made up of one part but of many.

¹⁵ Now if the foot should say, “Because I am not a hand, I do not belong to the body,” it would not for that reason stop being part of the body.

¹⁶ And if the ear should say, “Because I am not an eye, I do not belong to the body,” it would not for that reason stop being part of the body.

¹⁷ If the whole body were an eye, where would the sense of hearing be? If the whole body were an ear, where would the sense of smell be? ¹⁸ But in fact God has placed the parts in the body, every one of them, just as he wanted them to be. ¹⁹ If they were all one part, where would the body be? ²⁰ As it is, there are many parts, but one body.

²¹ The eye cannot say to the hand, “I don’t need you!” And the head cannot say to the feet, “I don’t need you!” ²² On the contrary, those parts of the body that seem to be weaker are indispensable, ²³ and the parts that we think are less honorable we treat with special honor. And the parts that are unpresentable are treated with special modesty, ²⁴ while our presentable parts need no special treatment. But God has put the body together, giving greater honor to the parts that lacked it, ²⁵ so that there should be no division in the body, but that its parts should have equal concern for each other. ²⁶ If one part suffers, every part suffers with it; if one part is honored, every part rejoices with it.

²⁷ Now you are the body of Christ, and each one of you is a part of it.