

# WE NEED EACH OTHER

## A Paraphrase of 1 Corinthians 12:12-27 for Seven Voices

Original by Cecilia Mereness, *The Banner*, May 27, 1985, updated by Joyce Borger, 2018 with permission.

*Note: While this is set for seven voices it could easily be rearranged for fewer voices with individuals reading more than one part, or even read by a single voice. The number before each line indicates the voice that is to read it. Lines in black bolded font are to be read by the full group.*

1 For just as the body is one and has many kinds of members  
and all the members of the body, though many, are  
**one body,**  
1 so it is with Christ.

2 For by one Spirit we were all baptized into  
**one body**  
3 - all ages,  
4 - all abilities,  
5 - all incomes,  
6 - all genders,  
7 - all ethnicities,  
2 and all were made to drink of  
**one Spirit.**

1 For the church does not consist of one kind of member, but of many.

3 If the person in a wheelchair said, "Because I am not able to walk, I cannot belong to the church with no ramps," that would not make him any less part of the body.

4 And if a person with Down syndrome felt that, because she could not fit into the church's education program, she did not belong to the church, that would not make her any less part of the body.

5 If the whole church were teachers, where would the learners be?

6 If the whole church played the piano, where would the singers be?

7 If the whole church were young or middle aged, where would the experienced wisdom be?

1 As it is, God arranged the kinds of people in a church, each one of them, as God chose.

2 As it is, many kinds of people are needed, yet there is **one church.**

3 People who are able to read the creeds cannot say to nonreaders, "We really don't need you."

4 Nor can folks who do not have mental illness say that they don't need people who live with mental illness.

5 Those with sharp acuity cannot say to those with fading memory, "You're not important here." On the contrary, the people of the church who seem weaker are indispensable.

1 But God has so composed the church giving greater honor to people who are judged to be weak, that the body may be blessed.

6 If one member suffers,  
**all suffer together;**

7 if one member is honored,  
**all rejoice together.**

**Now you are the body of Christ, and *each one* of you is part of it!**