



**Date:** October 8, 2023

**Title:** Parts of a Whole

**Scripture:** 1 Corinthians 12:12-27

### **Introduction to Analog**

The word, Analog, means “something that is similar or comparable to something else.” Analog is designed to be a tangible way to take another deeper, look into each week’s Sunday morning message. Individuals, friends, small groups, and families can use Analog for further discussion and exploration of the Sunday teaching. May this tool help you explore the expansive heart of God and practice love in the ways of Jesus.

### **Teaching Season**

This week we welcomed Jonathan Merritt, a long-time friend of DCC to teach and we took a quick break from our series on Luke. Jonathan brought us a message about community.

### **Teaching**

In his letter to the church in Corinth Paul expounds at great length about the group of Jesus followers being together in unity- and as parts of a greater whole, also being together in diversity. This was not just diversity in their individual gifts, but also diversity in ethnicity, background, preferences, beliefs and practices. To hammer home his point, he compares this community to the body – a body, which is not their own, but the Body of Christ. This phrase, which is well-known in Christian circles, points toward an invitation: it invites the reader to recognize we are a part of something far larger than ourselves or any one single local faith community. Paul’s metaphor points toward something as infinite as the universe, which is to say, it points to The Christ. What a powerful thought that we, like Jesus, are the flesh and bone manifestation of what has been true since before the foundations of the world. This is not just about us, our tribe, our way of doing things, our particular philosophy of leadership; together we are those who point toward the deepest of all mysteries by the way we live our lives in community.

Listen to the teaching [online](#) or on the DCC App

**Opening Question for the Group:** Start your group discussion with the question below.

- 1) What's your favorite quality about yourself, and why?

### **Questions for Discussion or Reflection**

Here are some questions for discussion or reflection. Don't feel like you have to cover them all, and you may have questions of your own to ask. The Spiritual Practice for this week could be very meaningful for you or your group, so plan on 10 minutes or so for this exercise. If you are using this in a group context, read through these questions and the Spiritual Practice before your group meets to familiarize yourself with this material. You may want to send this out to the group before you meet.

1. What does belonging look like?
2. What have been the biggest challenges to belonging?
3. Name one thing you uniquely bring to the community you belong to?
4. How can you celebrate what others bring?

### **Spiritual Practice:**

This week for our formation practice, we invite you to listen to our guided time of prayer and reflection. You can listen to this guided prayer by clicking on the link below. You can also access the spiritual formation podcast through the DCC App.

[Spiritual Formation Podcast: False Self Meditation](#)