

**I'M O.K.-YOU'RE O.K.
OR EVERYBODY IN THE BODY
SPIRITUAL GIFTS #12
1212
1 CORINTHIANS 12:12-26
DR. ROGER BARRIER**

I'M O.K.-YOU'RE O.K. written by Dr. Tom Harris.

I'm Not O.K.--You're O.K. (anxious dependency of the immature)

I'm Not O.K.--You're Not O.K. (give up or despair syndrome)

I'm O.K.--You're Not O.K. (the criminal position)

I'm O.K.--You're O.K. (the response of the mature adult, at peace with himself and with others)

If I'M O.K.-YOU'RE O.K. had been written from a Christian perspective, it would have been based on 1 Corinthians 12:12-27.

Say two simple things this morning:

I'M O.K. BECAUSE NOBODY'S PERFECT!

YOU'RE O.K. BECAUSE GOD NEVER DESIGNED "LONE RANGER" CHRISTIANS.

The passage before us in 1 Corinthians is one of the most encouraging in all the bible

BEEN STUDYING FIRST CORINTHIANS FOR THE PAST YEAR.

The FBC of Corinth had a tremendous display of spiritual gifts, but they were greatly misusing them - Paul had to write to them to put the gifts back in their proper perspective.

In light of the great disruption in the American church, I have spent the last few months trying to balance and explain spiritual gifts.

PAUL USES ANALOGY OF THE HUMAN BODY IN VERSES 12-30 TO DEMONSTRATE HOW EACH OF US FITS IN TO THE BODY OF CHRIST.

READ 1 CORINTHIANS 12:12-13.

All function is for unity and the common good- can get around without a leg - more difficult but not impossible - same with body of Christ.

READ 1 CORINTHIANS 12:14-27.

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I'M O.K. BECAUSE NOBODY'S PERFECT!

1 CORINTHIANS 12:12-20

I'M O.K. BECAUSE NOBODY'S PERFECT!

Of Course, This Passage Is Addressed To Christians. If You Are Not A Christian Then You Are Not O.K. Before God.

Open The Door To Your Heart And Let Jesus In.

READ 1 CORINTHIANS 12:14-16.

Do you know that there are people who feel that way about themselves!

Look around and see others doing "important things in life and feel inferior and unimportant.

THIS HIGH-TECH, HIGH-GLOSS WORLD HAS A TENDENCY TO MAKE US ALL FEEL INFERIOR AND LESS THAN CAPABLE.

Barbie dolls are perfect, not a blemish or a pimple on them.
High gloss models, who can compete!
Super Bowl concept ensures that 25 teams will finish their season on a losing note!

It is all right not to be the perfect best. God still has a place for you in His kingdom.

Some struggle with perfectionism and get discouraged because they think are never good enough.

THE PERFECT DREAM

THE MOST PERFECT ROSE

It is all right not to be perfect. It is all right not to be the best. God can still use you.

At the other extreme, some struggle with feelings of shyness, lack of confidence, and inferiority and they get discouraged because they think are never good enough.

Put a picture on the screen that Connie Marconi sent me this week.

PICTURE OF BOY WITH FALLING PANTS: George Gobel: "Did you ever feel like the whole world was a tuxedo and you were a pair of brown shoes?"

Maybe you feel like that. Have a hunch that we have all felt like that at one time or another.

Don't look around and compare.

JUDY WYATT: "You Should Not Judge Your Insides With Another Persons Outsides."

BE ENCOURAGED ABOUT YOURSELF--GOD HAS A PLACE FOR EVERYONE IN THE BODY OF CHRIST.

READ 1 CORINTHIANS 12:17-20.

Let me encourage you: God never designed all of us to have the same gifts, talents, and abilities.

UNIQUE ZOO ANIMALS

Some these creatures are made solely for God's enjoyment. He makes all sorts of different kinds.

A body of just one member be an absurd thing to behold. You picture that! If see a large eyeball, large spongy eyeball, all would want to be an eye. Great camera, never runs out of film, etc
Car door opens and a large spongy eyeball rolls out! Ridiculous, yet many wanting to be an eyeball.

Let me encourage you: God has arranged all of the parts as He wants them to be. And He has a place for everyone.

PUZZLE ILLUSTRATION Brie puzzle put together (except for the last piece picking her nose) while I am telling Bill Clem story

There was a baseball umpire in the major leagues by the name of Bill Clem.

There was a runner on third base. The batter hit a deep fly to left field. The left fielder went way back, caught the ball, and rifled the ball home with his shotgun arm as the runner on third broke for the plate. It was a perfect throw on one hop to the catcher. The ball, the catcher, and the runner all hit the plate at the same time as dust flew everywhere.

The umpire hesitated in his decision until the dust cleared. One bench screamed, "He's out! He's out!" The other bench screamed, "Safe! He's safe!"

Bill Clem turned around and looked at both benches and said, "He ain't nothin' till I call it!"

But when He has called it, then you are something. And the something that you are is the something He wanted you to be, and it is desperately needed by the rest of us.

You see the picture is not complete until you are in place. (Put in last piece of the puzzle.)

Unfortunately, many hurting people are not ready to fill in their place.
If you are hurting, get healed, trained, and qualified.

I'M O.K. BECAUSE NOBODY'S PERFECT!
BE ENCOURAGED ABOUT YOURSELF--GOD HAS A PLACE FOR EVERYONE IN THE BODY OF CHRIST.

Leads to a second point.

YOU'RE O.K. BECAUSE GOD NEVER DESIGNED "LONE RANGER" CHRISTIANS. 1 CORINTHIANS 12:21-26

YOU'RE O.K. BECAUSE GOD NEVER DESIGNED "LONE RANGER" CHRISTIANS.

READ 1 CORINTHIANS 12:21.

These people had gifts and thought they were something and the other people were not needed.

Some struggle with "rugged individualism" and they become "Lone Rangers" because they don't think they need anyone else.

Contemporary Society And Advertising Encourages Us On Toward Rugged Individualism.

Burger King: "Do your own thing."
Frank Sinatra: "I did it my way."

The "MARLBORO MAN" epitomizes the essence of rugged individualism.

Rugged Individualism Appeals To Us.

Why? Because we are depraved.

God designed us to work in unity and dependance upon each other.

God wants us to be interdependent upon each other

Genesis 4:9: "Am I my brother's keeper?"

Jesus was a rugged individualist: No, he needed twelve friends

Paul was a rugged individualist: No, the NT is filled with the lists of people who surrounded him
(Romans 15:1-16; Colossians 4:7-17; 2 Timothy 4:9-21)

The "marlboro man" needed someone to tell him that he was going to die of cancer if he kept on smoking those cigarettes.

The six pack man needs some one to drive him home.

Charles Lindbergh, who first flew solo across the Atlantic needed some one to buy him an airplane.

The man or woman who climb Mt. Everest have an entire team of people to back them up!

At the other extreme, some struggle with selfishness and they become "Lone Rangers" who forget that they are here to help hurting brothers and sisters in need.

READ 1 CORINTHIANS 12:25-26: Equal concern, if one suffer, all suffer; one rejoices, all rejoice

Plato early on pointed out the unity of the body: "My finger has a pain." No: "I have a pain."

FRANCIS ROGERS STORY: Look back with sadness with the way we treated him at times.
Francis Rogers in the church. Maybe you feel like that. Maybe not.

PECKING ORDER AND CLIQUES WITH TEENAGERS

HAGAR, GOD HEARD THE SOUND OF THE CHILD WEEPING--GENESIS 21:14-19.

BE ENCOURAGED ABOUT EVERYONE ELSE--EVERYONE IS NEEDED IN THE BODY OF CHRIST.

READ 1 CORINTHIANS 12:22-25.

Talking here about internal organs, liver, heart, kidneys, etc. Can live without eye, ear, hand; but can't survive without liver. So God protects these internal organs with all the other outside organs.

Talking about organs we think are not so important after all.

Never think much about big toe. Try walking without it sometime. It's necessary - not as comely as other parts, but it's necessary.

Julie will kill me for saying this - but it illustrates a point. I've never said to her, "What nice big toes you have."
But I have said, "What big beautiful eyes you have." Some parts aren't as comely as others but they're just as necessary for the body to be complete.

Let me encourage you to appreciate those around you: God designed them to be more important than you realize.

DIZZY DEAN won 30 games for the St. Louis Browns and then lost his career after being hit on big toe with a line drive. Could not push off of the rubber effectively ever again.

Don't look down on people and think your ministry of life is more important than theirs.
Don't feel that your ministry for Christ is insignificant.

Let me encourage you to appreciate those around you: God will reward them better than you ever dreamed.

In the long run, when the rewards are given, the people with the showy gifts aren't nearly so vital as the people with the support ministries.

Bema: Lk 9:48: "For he who is least among you will be the greatest of all."

Mk 10:44: "Whosoever would be chief among you shall be the servant of all."

People say, "Roger, you'll have big reward." No. People in this church serving and loving and praying will have many more rewards than I.

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YOU'RE O.K. BECAUSE GOD NEVER DESIGNED "LONE RANGER" CHRISTIANS.

WE ARE ALL PART OF THE BODY OF CHRIST

READ 1 CORINTHIANS 12:27.

Picture of baptizing

"You are the body of Christ." There is a tremendous thought here. Jesus Christ is no longer on this world in a body; therefore, if He wants something done on earth He must get someone to do it. If He wants a child taught, He must find a teacher. If he wants a sick person cured, He finds a physician or surgeon to do His work. If He wants His story told, He must find some one to tell it. Literally, we have to be the body of Christ, hands to do His work, feet to run His errands, a voice to speak for Him.

"He has no hands but our hands
To do His work today;
He has no feet but our feet
To lead men in His way;
He has no voice but our voice
To tell men how he died;
He has no help but our help
To lead them to His side."

To be part of the Body of Christ on earth is the supreme glory of the Christian.

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