



Who We Are

Part 3 - We Care

Discussion Guide

It is easy to come to church, remain anonymous, and go home, but that's not what we're called to do. We are called to care for and to *be cared for* by the body of Christ. We do not need to feel alone in our circumstances and struggles. Indeed, God has given us each other to complete our community, to give and receive from one another as needs arise, to fellowship with one another, and to break bread together. This week, as we focus on how to really be the Church, we learn that we are commanded to care for one another.

Jump Start

1. How do you show others you care about them? How have others shown that they care for *you*?
2. *We are designed to care.* **Read 1 Corinthians 12:25-26 (MSG) together:** "The way God designed our bodies is a model for understanding our lives together as a church: every part dependent on every other part, the parts we mention and the parts we don't, the parts we see and the parts we don't. If one part hurts, every other part is involved in the hurt, and in the healing. If one part flourishes, every other part enters into the exuberance."

How have you seen this dependence work well in a group or community? Why did God design us to care for one another?

3. *We are equipped to care.* **Read [Romans 12:4-8](#).** In what specific ways do you think God has equipped you to care for others? **Read [1 Corinthians 12:7](#) and [1 Peter 4:10](#).** Discuss this quote from this week's message: "*Your gift it is from God; but it is for me.*"
4. *We are called to care.* **Read [Ephesians 2:10](#) and [2 Corinthians 9:8](#).** What does God's Word tell you about *you*? **Read [Galatians 6:9-10](#).** How long should you keep caring? Who should be cared for by believers?
5. Final Thought: How have you seen God's people answer the call to care for one another? Have you seen it make a difference in a non-believer's life? In what ways have you personally answered this call? In what ways is the Holy Spirit asking you to care for others right now?

Deeper

6. [Romans 16](#) is a catalogue of personal greetings from Paul to the church in Rome. Write down intentionally specific, tender, or respectful phrases you see listed. How do these greetings demonstrate deep care for Paul's fellow Christ followers in Rome?

7. Many of Paul's other closing exhortations (in his other letters) similarly imply that his relationships with believers ran deep and that there was an understood culture of care in the first century church. Greek writer, Lucian, from the 2nd century AD wrote, *"It is incredible to see the fervor with which the people of that religion help one another in their wants. They spare nothing. Their first legislator [that is, Jesus] has put it into their heads that they are all brethren."* Lucian was widely known to ridicule religious practices: he thought the selflessness of the early church was ridiculous. Could an unbelieving writer say this about the modern church? What changes you would need to make in your own life for someone to call you "ridiculously selfless"?

8. There are several "lists" of spiritual gifts found in the New Testament: [Romans 12:4-8](#); [1 Corinthians 12:8-10](#); [Ephesians 4:11-12](#). Take time to read through them, jotting down any gifts that you feel you may have. Discuss your giftedness with your group. Even if you are unsure, share with your group any that you think may apply to you. They may confirm or have further insight! Remember, these are not exhaustive lists. [See Exodus 31:1-11](#) for just one example of less obvious gifts.