

My son is playing in a 10U rec soccer league in Mankato, MN. He has been participating in this league for a couple years now and is getting to that age where we are seeing more and more teamwork instead of 6 kids (from each team) crowding around the ball all trying to kick it. Cute as that was when they were younger, there is more to soccer than cuteness. And so, they are learning the art of passing and getting their other teammates involved. They are learning positions, where they need to be on the field, and these positions are all important. It is fun to see this evolution. For example, during Malachi's first game, his teammate (and friend) Beckett, had the ball to the left of the goal. I heard Beckett yell to Malachi and direct him to an open spot in front of the goal. Malachi listened and Beckett hit him with a great pass that Malachi subsequently put in the goal. Teamwork and communication at its best.

And there is a lot to be said about that example in any sport and in various aspects of life. It is so easy to simply "give the ball to the best player" and just sit back and watch them "score the goals". But even the best player can have off days. But more than that, even the best players need the team. I think Micheal Jordan would definitely agree with me here.

In 1 Corinthians 12, the church is compared to a body, and as we all know, the body has many parts. Each part is unique and important. Each part has a particular function. Each part is specially arranged. Each part is needed for the body to function efficiently and effectively. The text goes on to say in verse 15, ***"If the foot should say, "Because I am not a hand, I do not belong to the body," that would not make it any less a part of the body."*** And then it says in verse 21, ***"The eye cannot say to the hand, "I have no need of you," nor again the head to the feet, "I have no need of you."***

Whether you are part of a family, workplace, organization, church or whatever, your function is important. Your part is indispensable. Never dismiss yourself as unimportant, and never let anyone dismiss you as unimportant. You may perform different functions in different bodies, but know they are all needed. God has formed and equipped you. God has given you a purpose. Therefore, YOU are needed. YOU are important. YOU are valuable. YOU are no less part of the body. So go and score that goal or set someone else up to score, but whether you are directly involved with the "scoring" or not, celebrate together as a body, for you are ALL important. Amen.