

1 Corinthians 12:12-31 and 13

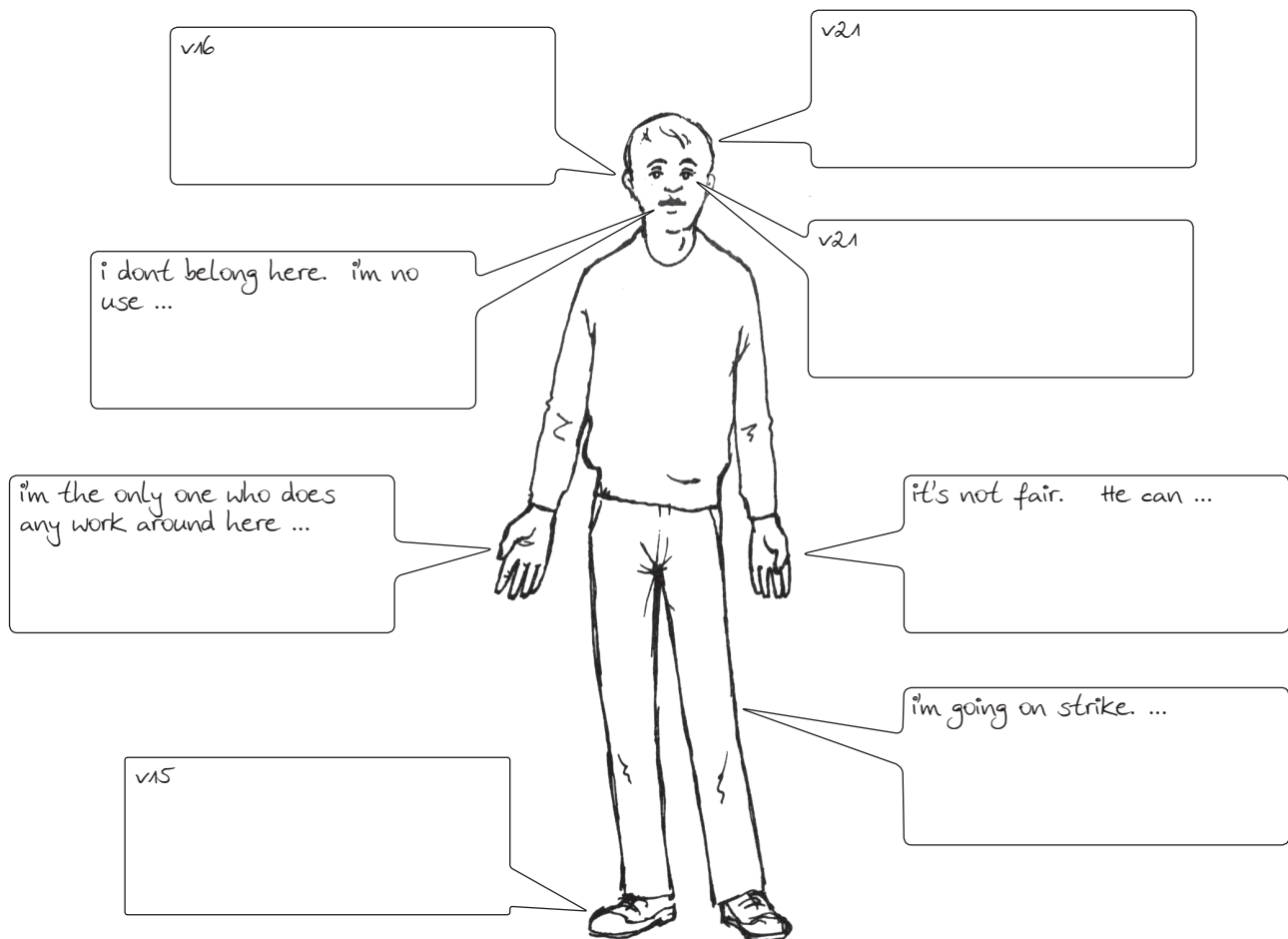
Do everything in love.

1 Corinthians 16:14

Readings this week:

- S 1 Corinthians 3:1-5
- M 1 Corinthians 3:10-17
- T 1 Corinthians 3:18-23
- W 1 Corinthians 12:1-11
- Th 1 Corinthians 12:12-26
- F 1 Corinthians 13
- S Romans 12

In the last lesson we looked at the way the church in Corinth was divided into different groups because of different opinions. In this lesson we will look at the way Paul emphasised the importance of having a unity of purpose. He uses the analogy of the parts of a body all working together, to explain to them that although they were different people, they could all contribute to the same work in Christ. Look at the passages from 1 Corinthians 12 and fill in the boxes with the attitudes Paul describes.



Look at 1 Corinthians 12:12-13. What does Paul say the church is like?

What is the lesson for the body of Christ?

In chapter 13, Paul tells us what the opposite to quarrelling is. Without love, everything is meaningless. Read together 1 Corinthians 13.

In verses 1-3, Paul is using examples of important things which are meaningless if they are done without love. Think of 4 things which are important to you in your life. Write them down, in the style that Paul uses in the first 3 verses of 1 Corinthians 13.

Look at verses 4-7. Which of these things do you find the hardest to carry out? Talk about the things you find hardest to do, and see if you can find any ways to be better at them. Write 3 targets for each person in your group to work towards this week, to try to be more loving in the way you live.

Can you summarise what Paul is saying about love in your own words?

LOVE IS

Paul didn't just need to talk to the Corinthians about being united. Look at what he said to the Ephesians in Ephesians 4:2-6. Make lists of the similarities and the differences between the things he says in Ephesians and in 1 Corinthians.

In his analogy of the body having different parts which are all necessary, Paul is telling us that we don't all need to make the same contribution to our church and to our lives together. Discuss in your group the different ways we can work for Jesus. Are any jobs more important than others?

Digging Deeper

Where does all this love come from?

1 John 4:7,16

How do we know?

Romans 5:7-8, John 3:16

What did Jesus say about it?

John 15:17, Luke 10:27, John 15:12-13

Two more thoughts

1 John 3:1, 4:16-18

Ask
God for
help to show his
love as we live
our lives.