

# DRAWN IN: Reintegrating

February 4, 2024

Michael Swartzentruber, Senior Minister



## Genesis 1:28-31

28God blessed them, and God said to them, 'Be fruitful and multiply, and fill the earth and subdue it; and have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the air and over every living thing that moves upon the earth.' 29God said, 'See, I have given you every plant yielding seed that is upon the face of all the earth, and every tree with seed in its fruit; you shall have them for food. 30And to every beast of the earth, and to every bird of the air, and to everything that creeps on the earth, everything that has the breath of life, I have given every green plant for food.' And it was so. 31God saw everything that he had made, and indeed, it was very good. And there was evening and there was morning, the sixth day.

## 1 Corinthians 12:12-27

12 For just as the body is one and has

many members, and all the members of the body, though many, are one body, so it is with Christ. 13For in the one Spirit we were all baptized into one body—Jews or Greeks, slaves or free—and we were all made to drink of one Spirit.

14 Indeed, the body does not consist of one member but of many. 15If the foot were to 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. 16And if the ear were to say, 'Because I am not an eye, I do not belong to the body', that would not make it any less a part of the body. 17If the whole body were an eye, where would the hearing be? If the whole body were hearing, where would the sense of smell be? 18But as it is, God arranged the members in the body, each one of them, as he chose. 19If all were a single member, where would the body be? 20As it is, there are many members, yet one body. 21The 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.' 22On the contrary, the members of the body that seem to be weaker are indispensable, 23and those members of the body that we think less honourable we clothe with greater honour, and our less respectable members are treated with greater respect; 24whereas our more respectable members do not need this. But God has so arranged the body, giving the greater honour to the inferior member, 25that there may be no dissension within the body, but the members may have the

**South Elkhorn Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)**

4343 Harrodsburg Road, Lexington KY 40513

859-223-1433 [southelkhorncc.org](http://southelkhorncc.org)

same care for one another. 26 If one member suffers, all suffer together with it; if one member is honoured, all rejoice together with it.

27 Now you are the body of Christ and individually members of it.'

## REFLECT & DISCUSS

1. Read the passage slowly. Then take a deep breath and read it again. What word, phrase or image stands out to you?
2. In Genesis 1, everything God creates is related and connected to something else—nothing exists in isolation. Each new day of creation more nuance and complexity emerges. That increasing variety is not meant for hostility but harmony: peaceful and mutually beneficial. The human task of “dominion” is perhaps better translated “stewardship”: a kind of garden care-taking. What might it mean for humanity to “steward” the vast variety of creation today?
3. St. Paul is at pains to re-integrate a fragmented Corinthian community—divisions in social status and spiritual gifts have created superiority complexes and hostility. How does he transform those differences?
4. Integrity can be understood as “holding fast” to a principle or commitment. But it might also be understood as the virtue of “bringing together” differences that might become hostile or hurtful when isolated. To have “personal integrity” would then be the ability to honor and hold together those parts of ourselves (our various needs, emotions, memories, experiences) that we might otherwise minimize, ignore or reject. How are you learning to honor and hold together aspects of yourself that you might have once rejected, minimized, or ignored?
5. “Social integrity” would then be the strength of holding together different needs and interests among people in such a way that each and all can thrive. How is the church called to honor and hold together the great diversity of people that God loves, so that each and all can thrive in the family of God?
6. What or who in our world today needs “reintegrating”?