

Needed

We all want to be wanted. Need to be needed. Made to belong.

- Designed to contribute, complement and complete something bigger than us individually.
 - Contribute our time, resources, perspectives
 - Complement the experience and giftings of others
 - Complete the body of Jesus
- Deceived to see difference as divisive
 - Instead of contribute, complement and complete we control, compare and compete.

There's something in us that distrusts difference.

- Different giftings, experience, culture, resource, status.
- Difference isn't divisive - it's divine!

1 Corinthians 12 12 Just as a body, though one, has many parts, but all its many parts form one body, so it is with Christ. 13 For we were all baptized by one Spirit so as to form one body—whether Jews or Gentiles, slave or free—and we were all given the one Spirit to drink. 14 Even so the body is not made up of one part but of many.

15 Now if the foot should say, "Because I am not a hand, I do not belong to the body," it would not for that reason stop being part of the body. 16 And if the ear should say, "Because I am not an eye, I do not belong to the body," it would not for that reason stop being part of the body. 17 If the whole body were an eye, where would the sense of hearing be? If the whole body were an ear, where would the sense of smell be? 18 But in fact God has placed the parts in the body, every one of them, just as he wanted them to be. 19 If they were all one part, where would the body be? 20 As it is, there are many parts, but one body.

21 The eye cannot say to the hand, "I don't need you!" And the head cannot say to the feet, "I don't need you!" 22 On the contrary, those parts of the body that seem to be weaker are indispensable, 23 and the parts that we think are less honorable we treat with special honor. And the parts that are unpresentable are treated with special modesty, 24 while our presentable parts need no special treatment. But God has put the body together, giving greater honor to the parts that lacked it, 25 so that there should be no division in the body, but that its parts should have equal concern for each other. 26 If one part suffers, every part suffers with it; if one part is honored, every part rejoices with it.

When God brings a people together he brings different types of people.

- Different gifts, experiences, cultures, resources, status
- The greater the difference the greater the functionality, if they are working together.
- But the greater the difference the greater the vigilance.

There are lies that we are told because of our differences

- I don't need them. I'm not needed.

21 The eye cannot say to the hand, "I don't need you!" And the head cannot say to the feet, "I don't need you!"

15 Now if the foot should say, "Because I am not a hand, I do not belong to the body," it would not for that reason stop being part of the body. 16 And if the ear should say, "Because I am not an eye,

- I don't belong.
 - I've have often felt out of place. That I didn't belong. (Bali Story)
 - But I do belong because of Jesus.
 - Because he has moulded and shaped me, gifted me, called me.
 - And he's done the same for you.

Conclusion

I've been designed to contribute, complement and complete something bigger.

- So have you!
- You have something to contribute, complement and complete.

You're differences don't disqualify you - they are the very thing that makes you needed.

You are wanted.

You belong.

You are needed.

One way you can contribute, complement and complete who God is calling us to be is by serving in one of the many parts of the body Jesus is building here at EN Melbourne.

- Creative Min - Matt
- Ushering - Che & Diana
- Systems/Service Coordination/Admin - Jen A, Abbie, Marion
- AV - Reymark, Val
- Kids Ministry - Tsitsi & Kellie
- Youth - Derrick
- Intercessors - Tina

We've been designed to contribute, complement and complete something bigger.

- The 2020Vision, the 2030Vision.
- We're bringing in some new members/parts of the body who know who we are, where we are going, what we stand for, what we expect of them and what they can expect from us.
 - Dirk + Madelie Bortslap, Ivan + Juliet Diaz

We're better together.