

# Body Language

By Doug Irving & Gary Randolph



## Theme and Purpose

In Ephesians 4 Paul wrote a beautiful description of the Body of Christ mutually supporting and building up each member using individual spiritual gifts for the common good. The Body of Christ is a beautiful thing when it functions that way. Too often it becomes dysfunctional with individual agendas, selfishness, and gossip. As this sketch illustrates, if our own bodies acted that way it would be a pretty sad sight.

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<b>Cast list</b>	Reader – should be dressed for church Hand (voice-over) Brain (voice-over) Stomach (voice-over) Foot (voice-over) Left Eye (voice-over) Right Eye (voice-over)
<b>Approximate Running Time</b>	2 minutes
<b>Scene Description</b>	This sketch takes place in a sanctuary during Sunday morning worship, which makes it fairly easy to stage during Sunday morning worship. Actually, it could just as easily be set in a youth meeting.
<b>Prop List</b>	Bible
<b>Other Production Notes</b>	Reader will not be able to hold a microphone. Use a mic stand or a lavalier.  This success of this sketch depends on the actors. You need a good physical actor as Reader to humorously sell the independent behavior of the body parts without going overboard. You need good voice actors for the body parts. Direct them to create voices and attitudes that fit their characters. Timing between the blocking of Reader and the dialogue of the body parts is crucial.
<b>Related Scriptures</b>	John 13:35; 1 Corinthians 12:12-26; Ephesians 1:22-23; Ephesians 4:1-6; Ephesians 4:12; Colossians 3:12-15
<b>Song Suggestions</b>	We Are One (Brooklyn Tabernacle); If We Are the Body (Casting Crowns); How Beautiful (Twila Paris)

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(Worship leader announces that scripture will be read by \_\_\_\_\_, using the real name of the reader.)

(Reader walks to the platform carrying a Bible and stands in front of a microphone stand. He opens the Bible to a marked place.)

READER

(Half-way through this line the hand holding the Bible begins to noticeably shake. Reader may stumble on a couple words as the shaking gets worse.)

Therefore, as God's chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience.

HAND

This... this is the hand. I'm nervous! A little help here?

(Reader places free hand under the shaking hand.)

HAND

Thanks for making that happen, Brain.

BRAIN

Don't mention it, Hand.

STOMACH

(as Reader moves free hand to stomach)

I don't feel so good.

BRAIN

You are such a whiner, Stomach. Suck it up. Let's just get through this.

STOMACH

But this is scary.

FOOT

(Reader's foot extends in an awkward movement without the rest of his body following)

Yeah, I'm getting out of here. Who's with me?

(Reader grabs leg and yanks it and foot back in place.)

BRAIN

Oh, no, you don't, Foot. We're staying right here until this scripture is read.

READER

(ignoring the argument between his body parts)

Bear with each other and forgive whatever grievances you may have against one another. Forgive as the Lord forgave you.

(Reader glances up and looks around the congregation.)

LEFT EYE

Look at all those people, Right Eye.

RIGHT EYE

Yeah, Left Eye. Hey is that a hairpiece?

LEFT EYE

I can't tell. Do you think we need glasses?

(Reader begins squinting, then opening and shutting one eye then the other.)

BRAIN

(as reader jerks head back to look at Bible)  
All right. Eyes on the page. I need to read.

RIGHT EYE

Bossy.

BRAIN

I'm the brain. That's my job.

READER

And over all these virtues put on love, which binds them all together in perfect unity.

STOMACH

(as Reader again moves free hand to stomach)  
I'm hungry. How long does this service last, anyway?

BRAIN

Shut up. I'm trying to concentrate.

STOMACH

I should have had that donut in Sunday school.

LEFT EYE

(reader's left eye twitches)

Are you kidding? Have you seen your profile recently?

RIGHT EYE

We keep telling him...

LEFT EYE

But does he listen?

STOMACH

Listen? I'm a stomach, not an ear.

FOOT

(Reader taps foot impatiently and looks down at it as if surprised to see it move)

Hey, Brain, are you about done reading? I'm tired of standing around and supporting all you guys.

BRAIN

Shush. Just a little more.

READER

(returning eyes to Bible)

Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, since as members of one body you were called to peace. And be thankful.

(Reader closes Bible and lets out a breath as he or she tucks it under one arm. Reader then tries to walk off in two different directions at once before finally making an exit.)

*Fade to black*

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