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At first glance, Paul's words to the Corinthians about their being the body of Christ seem simple and straightforward. He compares them with a human body so that they may be encouraged to work together, each member contributing to the good of the whole according to his or her special gift. However, the passage raises several critical questions which point to its deeper implications. Does Paul mean that the community is "like" a body or is he saying that they are in some sense a real body? What is the significance of being specifically the body of *Christ*? Is the primary purpose of the passage to instruct on the correct use of spiritual gifts or is Paul also making a statement about the identity of the Christian community? Michelle Lee examines Paul's instructions in 1 Corinthians 12–14 against the backdrop of Hellenistic moral philosophy, and especially Stoicism.

MICHELLE V. LEE is Assistant Professor of Biblical Studies and Theology at Biola University.

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To my mother, Mrs. Grace K. Lee
and in memory of my father,
Dr. William C. Lee 1926–2002

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ABBREVIATIONS

AB	Anchor Bible
AnBib	Analecta biblica
ANRW	<i>Aufstieg und Niedergang der römischen Welt.</i> Edited by H. Temporini and W. Haase. New York, 1992
BAGD	Bauer, W., W. F. Arndt, F. W. Gingrich, and F. W. Danker. <i>A Greek–English Lexicon of the New Testament and Other Early Christian Literature.</i> 2nd edn. Chicago, 1979
CBQ	<i>Catholic Biblical Quarterly</i>
CQ	<i>Classical Quarterly</i>
EvQ	<i>Evangelical Quarterly</i>
GRBS	<i>Greek, Roman and Byzantine Studies</i>
HR	<i>History of Religions</i>
HTR	<i>Harvard Theological Review</i>
ICC	International Critical Commentary
Int	<i>Interpretation</i>
JAAR	<i>Journal of the American Academy of Religion</i>
JB	<i>Jerusalem Bible.</i> Edited by A. Jones. Garden City, NY, 1966
JBL	<i>Journal of Biblical Literature</i>
JETS	<i>Journal of the Evangelical Theological Society</i>
JSOT	<i>Journal for the Study of the Old Testament</i>
JSNTSup	Journal for the Study of the New Testament: Supplement Series
JTS	<i>Journal of Theological Studies</i>
LSJ	Liddell, H. G., R. Scott, and H. S. Jones. <i>A Greek–English Lexicon.</i> 9th edn. with revised supplement. Oxford, 1996
NAB	New American Bible
NEB	New English Bible

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List of abbreviations

NICNT	New International Commentary on the New Testament
NIGTC	New International Greek Testament Commentary
NIV	New International Version
<i>NovT</i>	<i>Novum Testamentum</i>
NRSV	New Revised Standard Version
<i>NTS</i>	<i>New Testament Studies</i>
<i>OCD</i>	<i>Oxford Classical Dictionary</i>
<i>RelSRev</i>	<i>Religious Studies Review</i>
SBLDS	Society of Biblical Literature Dissertation Series
SBLRBS	Society of Biblical Literature Resources for Biblical Study
SNTSMS	Society for New Testament Studies Monograph Series
<i>ST</i>	<i>Studia theologica</i>
<i>SVF</i>	<i>Stoicorum veterum fragmenta</i> . H. von Arnim. 4 vols. Leipzig, 1903–24.
<i>TDNT</i>	<i>Theological Dictionary of the New Testament</i> . Edited by G. Kittel and G. Friedrich. 10 vols. Grand Rapids, 1964–76
WBC	Word Biblical Commentary
<i>ZNW</i>	<i>Zeitschrift für die neutestamentliche Wissenschaft und die Kunde der älteren Kirche</i>

Titles of ancient sources are abbreviated as listed in *The SBL Handbook of Style*, ed. Patrick H. Alexander *et al.* (Peabody: Hendrickson, 1999).