Many Parts

Allen and his dad walked down the isle of the department store. They were in the auto supply section, and Allen enjoyed looking at all the different products for making cars and trucks look and drive better. “I want to find new tires that will help us drive in the snow this coming winter,” Dad said to the salesperson.

“No problem,” the salesperson answered with a smile. “We have just the tire you’re looking for.” He pointed to a display by the window. “Here we are. Our best snow tires.”

“They look great,” Dad said. “I’ll take two, please.”

“Yes sir,” the salesman said, writing information on a pad of paper. “I’ll have someone bring them to your car. Then, when winter begins, you bring them here to our store, and we’ll put them in.”
on your car. You’ll be able to drive through deep snow without any
problem.”

After they got home, Allen helped Dad pull the new tires out of
the trunk and then sat down on one of them to rest. “Tires are
heavy,” he said.

Dad looked at him and laughed. “Now, don’t go driving away.
It’s almost suppertime.”

Allen blinked. “Drive away? Dad, you can’t drive just one tire!”

“Really?” Dad asked. “What else do you need?”

Allen thought for a moment. “Well, you have to have a motor
and a seat and a steering wheel and brakes and gasoline and lots
of other stuff.”

“Kinda reminds me of a church,” Dad said.

“A church?” Allen gasped. “How does a car remind you of a
church?”

“Well, in a church, you have to have many parts too. You can’t
have just a preacher. You have to have someone to play the organ
or piano, someone to welcome visitors, someone to take up the
offering, someone to tell the children’s story, someone to give
Bible studies to new members. Oh, and you certainly want people
sitting in the pews. A church needs lots of different kinds of people
to be a church just like a car needs lots of different parts to be a
car.”

Dad smiled down at his son. “What would happen if you took
some parts out of a car?”

Allen grinned. “If you took the engine out, it wouldn’t run. If
you took the tires away, it wouldn’t go anywhere. If you took the
steering wheel out, you couldn’t make the car go where you want
to go.”

“That’s right,” Dad said. “And if people decide they don’t
want to be a part of God’s family and leave the church, that church
doesn’t run as well as it can. It can’t do so many helpful things for
the community. You see, it takes all the parts of the church working
together to share God’s love with the world. That means you and
I are important to God’s church.”

Allen smiled. “I’m glad I’m part of God’s family. I’m glad I’m
part of our church.”

“Me, too,” Dad said. “Now let’s go have supper. Mom makes
the most delicious parts of a meal that I’ve ever tasted.”

**Fun Facts**

**BEEP! BEEP!**

- The first cars did not have steering wheels. Drivers steered with a lever.
- Most American car horns beep in the key of F.
- The first car radio was invented in 1929.*

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Jesus wanted something special to happen to the members
of His church. Jesus even mentioned it in a prayer He offered to
God the Father right before He was arrested and sent to die on
the cross. Unscramble the letters to find out what Jesus said.
(Try unscrambling the letters without looking up the text in the
LIBRARY. But, if you get stuck, look it up. It’s fun!)

“Father, I (yapr) __________ that all (leoppe)
__________ who (iveeble) __________ in me can be
(neo) __________’” (John 17:21).

The apostle Paul wrote that God’s church needs something
important to happen before it can do its best work. Unscramble
the letters to discover what he had in mind.

“There is one (yobd) _______ and one (irtpiS)
_________. And God called you to have one (ohep)
_________. There is one (rdLo) _______, one (hitfa)
_______, and one (msitpab) __________. There is
one (oGd) _______ and (taFehr) __________ of
everything” (Ephesians 4:4–6).

How are God’s people supposed to become one? Unscramble
the letters in this text to find out.

“And I pray that God will (pehl) _______ you all
(reaeg) __________ with each other the way Christ
Jesus wants. Then you will all be (doijne) __________
together, and you will give (Igyor) _______ to God
the (rehtaF) __________ and our (oLdr) _______
Jesus Christ” (Romans 15:5, 6).