

Connected With One Another

Help One Another

1 Corinthians 12:20-26

I. Message

a. All the body parts need each other – v.20-21

- i. If you are a Christian, you are a member of the “one body”
 1. Whether you are officially a member at FBCW or not
 2. You are member of Christ and His body
 3. IF you have repented from sin and trusted Christ alone
 4. **1 Corinthians 12:12-13**
- ii. If you are a member of the body, you NEED the other members
 1. There is a very un-American thing to admit: that we need others
 2. We like to think of ourselves as independent and self-sufficient
 - a. But THAT attitude is un-Christian!
 - b. You need other believers

b. Often, the overlooked parts are needed most – v.22-24

- i. It is the less-noticed parts of the body that are most necessary
 1. For instance: Internal organs
 2. And then there are the parts that we don't show off or shouldn't for modesty's sake
 3. The same thing is true in the body of Christ, the church
 - a. Often, the most noticed parts are the least necessary
 - b. It is the quiet, behind-the-scenes, faithful parts responsible for breathing, heartbeat, reproduction, that are necessary for the church's survival
- ii. It is God that blends the body together harmoniously – v.24
 1. Every part of the body is necessary
 2. Even the shades you don't like as well
 - a. None of us are superior, so don't be arrogant
 - b. None of us are inferior, so don't be discouraged
 - c. Or falsely humble
 - i. You are vital to the health of the body!

- ii. In fact, if you are a hidden part of the body, you are probably MORE vital than those that are out front (the faces of the church)

c. The body needs intentional care to remain unified – v.25-26

- i. “25 That there should be no schism in the body...”
- ii. Jesus wants “no schism” in His body
 - 1. He hates division, dissention
 - 2. Confusion, un-coordination, amputation
 - 3. Jesus wants none of that
 - 4. He wants the body to stick together
 - a. Unity, coordination, **“connection”**
 - b. Work together seamlessly
 - c. How is that possible with a bunch of sinners?
- iii. The body parts must intentionally help each other!
- iv. **Notice three things in particular**
 - 1. **The parts must have the “same care one for another”**
 - a. “25...but that the members should have the same care one for another.”
 - b. Do you express the same amount of love and concern for every part of the body?
 - c. Even the hidden or less noticeable parts?
 - d. Or do you only concern yourself with yourself, or with the obvious parts?
 - e. **Philippians 2:4**
 - 2. **All the parts suffer with the parts that suffer**
 - a. “26 And whether one member suffer, all the members suffer with it...”
 - b. That’s a normal part of life
 - c. If part of your body hurts, the rest of you suffers
 - d. But often in the church, we miss this
 - i. People around us suffer week after week
 - ii. And we remain aloof
 - 1. Sometimes that is our fault
 - 2. Sometimes that is the sufferer’s fault
 - iii. The call of this passage is to suffer with each other

1. This takes a lot of time and intentionality
2. To suffer FOR each other
- iv. To do as Galatians 6:2 commands
 - v. "Bear ye one another's burdens, and so fulfil the law of Christ."
3. All the parts rejoice with the parts that are honored
 - a. "26...or one member be honoured, all the members rejoice with it."
 - b. How do you respond when another part of the church body is the recipient of God's grace?
 - c. They receive good stuff they don't deserve?
 - d. We are to rejoice with them!
 - e. This takes less time and intentional effort
 - f. But it takes a lot of humility
 - i. Romans 12:15-16
 - ii. This is one of the ways we help each other