

We Go Together: Needing - 1 Corinthians 12:12-26
Notes, Family Worship, Bible Reading

Notes from the Sermon

If you have played any sport at a more competitive level you have had a coach teach you “mechanics”. The idea is simple, your body is a whole unit, and in whatever athletic endeavor you seek to participate the path to the greatest success is for your body to work as one. Runners have to leave the blocks not only with their legs pumping quickly, but to win a sprint the runner has to start the race with arms swinging properly and in rhythm. Hitters in baseball have to learn how to turn their back foot so that their hips will also turn through the swing giving the hitter power. A football lineman has to learn how to keep his hips low so he can get under the pads of the other lineman (sorry for all non-sports people who have no idea what I am talking about). Here’s the point, even for those who don’t get sports. The body will accomplish more when every part works as it should in unison with the rest. To do this takes training and instruction, but every athlete will improve exponentially when taught to utilize proper mechanics.

Now, think about this in light of Paul’s metaphor in I Corinthians 12, the church is the body of Christ. Though it is made up of many members, it is one body, and that body is the visible representation of Jesus in a city or community. Every part is vital and needed. And when the body is working together toward a specific mission or goal so much can be accomplished. These were the points of last week’s sermon. So, the reality is that the only way for a church to function as a body is through deep, meaningful, and gospel-centered relationships. The body will not function if we keep everyone at arms length, and if we treat church as an event rather than a people in community. This community needs you, you have a role to play, and your fellowship and participation matter.

Furthermore, you need this level of community. Now, I know, you probably have a group of friends who fill the need for relationship for you, or at least you think they do. They think like you, root for the same team, like the same hobbies, and probably vote in similar patterns as you. Get once or twice a month with them and you feel satisfied relationally. So why give up a night a week to hang out with people you would not hang out with on weekends? Simply put, this is the way God grows us. Body life is vital for your discipleship and for you to understand God, yourself, and your mission rightly. It takes work, but as you develop deeper Gospel oriented relationships with a group of people, Christ is doing His best work in and through you.

First of all, this is how we know God rightly. Think about it. When we speak of the God who exists and seek to define His character we have to begin with the reality that God is Triune. The doctrine of the Trinity is not a side issue, or a secondary belief. Not believing in the Trinity is actually to not be a Christian. Yet, the concept is mysterious. God is three, but also one? Now, I can go study all the passages in the Scripture on the topic, read the big theology books, and even take a class on the philosophical implications of Trinitarian theology. We probably should do this. Still, head knowledge can be dangerous when not coupled with body life in the church. First of all, in community, the closer you grow to actually being many parts but one body, the more the concept of the Trinity will make sense, of unity out of diversity. In community we give each other and the world a living picture of the Trinitarian God. But that model is also for us. Second, when and if we do drift into theological mistakes, it is the brothers and sisters with whom we have deep Gospel community that will lovingly correct us and reshape our views in a holistic way. Realize, most of the crazy cults in our society (Mormons, Jehovah’s Witness, Christian Science, Scientology) began with some person off by themselves having a “vision” from God. If only they would have been in community where the heretical mistakes would be corrected. This would have avoided many people being led into false belief.

Community is also how we come to truly understand ourselves and purpose in the world. Every fiber of my sinful heart wants to avoid being known deeply, especially my sinfulness and weaknesses. And the truth is, that most of the time we come to a Community Group with our guard up. But in time as we study Scripture, pray, and wrestle with our struggles together we can begin to trust these people and come to the point where we can actually obey James 5:16 which commands us to confess our sins to one another. We do not need a priest for confession, but we do need a community to help us find the grace that is readily available to us. We need a community to understand that I am more sinful than I imagine, more in need of Jesus than I thought, and yet still loved and forgiven more than I know. And I need a community to live out the implications of my faith on mission in the world.

We need a group. If you have one, stick with it. Or you can use this launch season for our groups to find a new one. If you aren't in a group, give one a try. It may be awkward at first, and some of the people may annoy you. Great! Stick with it. This is God's plan to make you more like Jesus.

Bible Reading for the Week

Daily Bible Readings

Sun	Mon	Tues	Weds	Thurs	Fri	Sat
Revelations 12	Revelations 13	Revelations 14	Revelations 15	Revelations 17	Revelations 18	Revelations 19

Reading from this past week: I Corinthians 12:12-26

Reading in preparation for this coming Sunday: Hebrews 1

Family Worship

Song - *Glorious Day*

<https://youtu.be/gklJ2XZwDHc?feature=shared>

Gospel Project

Unit: God Rules over Creation

Story: Sin Entered the World

Big Picture Question: Who is God?

Answer: God is our Creator and the King of everything.

Scripture: Genesis 3

New City Catechism

Question 37: How does the Holy Spirit help us?

Answer: The Holy Spirit convicts us of our sin, and he enables us to pray and to understand God's Word.

Verse: Ephesians 6:17-18

Scripture

I Corinthians 12:12-26

- Last week we looked at this text to show the ways you matter for the body. What are two or three truths you can glean from the text and the body metaphor that show how important community is for our own growth and discipleship?
- What are the dangers those who are seeking to do "Christianity" apart from deep fellowship in a church can encounter in their faith?
- What are the blessings available for people who stick with their community until they find deeper, Gospel-oriented relationships?

Prayer

*Pray for our governor and state governmental leaders.

*Pray for the launch of our Community Groups this week and pray about your place in a group.