

SERMON OUTLINE

SERMON TITLE: Faithful in Fellowship

SERMON REFERENCE: 1 Corinthians 12:12

LWF SERMON NUMBER: #1832

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1) INTRODUCTION

- a) There are many ways to describe the church.
 - i) It is described as a building, and the members are building blocks with Christ as the foundation.
 - ii) It is described as a bride with Christ Himself being the groom.
 - iii) The description that today's message will focus on is this:
 - (1) The church is described as a body with Christ as the head, and we are the members of His body.
- b) While Jesus Christ and the church are not identical, they are inseparable.
- c) Many today claim to be Christians, but they say that they don't believe in organized churches, so they don't attend.
 - i) We're not to forsake the assembling of ourselves together.
 - (1) Hebrews 10:25
- d) 1 Corinthians 12:12
 - i) You are somebody in His body.
 - ii) You are important to Jesus; therefore, you are important to His church.
 - (1) And the church is vitally important to you.
- e) The church is the body of the Lord Jesus Christ, and it is in the church that we have fellowship.

2) THE FUNCTION OF A BODY

- a) The church is analogous to the human body.
- b) In a body, there is a manifested person.
 - i) When we look at a person, what we see is not them but their body.
 - (1) They are on the inside.
 - ii) The body is our earthly house.
 - iii) All we know of one another is through the body.
 - (1) We cannot know anything else about one another apart from the body.
 - (2) Even the words we write are written through the body.
 - (3) The words we say are spoken through the body.
 - iv) The purpose of the church of the Lord Jesus Christ is to manifest Jesus, to make Him known to the world.
 - (1) As He inhabits our humanity, we display His deity.
 - (2) Jesus Christ is known through His body.
 - (a) All that someone knows about the Lord Jesus Christ is through us.
 - (3) Jesus is the invisible part of the visible church.
 - (a) The church is the visible part of the invisible Christ.
- c) In a body, there is a ministering purpose.
 - i) Our body exists to serve us.
 - (1) It doesn't exist for any other purpose, except to do the will of the person who lives inside the body.
 - ii) We are the hands and feet of the Lord Jesus Christ.
- d) In a body, there must be a motivating power.

- i) What makes our body a body is not only that it has eyes, hands, fingers, feet, legs and arms, but it has life.
 - (1) There is a spirit in us; the spirit of life.
 - ii) When a person dies, he gives up the spirit.
 - iii) What makes a church a body is that it has life.
 - (1) The church is more than an organization; it is an organism.
 - iv) The life of our physical body is the spirit.
 - (1) The life of His body is the Holy Spirit of God.
 - v) The church is the body of the Lord Jesus Christ to manifest His person, to minister His purpose, and motivated by the power of the Holy Spirit of God.
 - (1) Other organizations are clubs.
 - (a) There is a vital and intrinsic difference between these and the church.
 - (b) The church has the Holy Spirit.
 - e) In a body, there must be a mutual program.
 - i) We do it together.
 - ii) 1 Corinthians 12:13-19
 - (1) We have many members, but they all have one agenda.
 - (2) The Bible is not against organization.
 - (a) Your body is organized.
 - (b) Some people say that they are against organized religion.
 - (i) If they mean that they are against an organized church, then they don't understand the Bible.
 - iii) The body has to be organized in order to function.
 - (1) If your body ceases to be organized, then you are sick.
 - iv) Organization is not the purpose for which we exist.
 - (1) It is to help us meet our purpose.
 - (2) When organization is working correctly, we're really not aware of it.
 - (a) When it's not working correctly, then we're very aware of it.
 - v) 1 Corinthians 14:40
 - vi) When my ministry makes problems for your ministry or your ministry makes problems for my ministry, then either one of us or both of us are wrong.
 - vii) When the members of the body are rightly related to the head, then they have to work together.
- 3) THE FORMATION OF THE BODY (1 CORINTHIANS 12:13)
- a) 1 Corinthians 12:13
 - i) That one Spirit is the Holy Spirit.
 - b) First, there is the supernatural birth.
 - i) We are born again.
 - ii) When we receive the Lord Jesus Christ as our personal Savior, He is to us what water is to our body.

- (1) 1 Corinthians 12:13
 - (a) We drink into one Spirit, the Holy Spirit of God.
- (2) John 4:14
- (3) He is the water of life.
 - (a) You will never find satisfaction until you drink from Heaven's well and draw from the well of salvation.
- iii) If you will trust Him today, receive Him, and believe on Him, then He will change your life radically, dramatically and eternally.
 - (1) You'll be so glad that you trusted Jesus.
- c) There will be a spiritual baptism.
 - i) 1 Corinthians 12:13
 - (1) The Holy Spirit is the baptizer.
 - (2) He baptizes us into the body of Christ.
 - (3) He baptizes believers in Christ.
 - ii) The Holy Spirit of God places us into the body of Christ when we get saved.
 - (1) Some people believe that there is a baptism of the Holy Ghost that happens following salvation.
 - (a) If that were true, then some people would have it and some wouldn't.
 - (b) But 1 Corinthians 12:13 says "all" have been baptized into one body.
 - (2) In the New Testament, no believer is ever commanded to be baptized in the Holy Ghost.
 - (a) We're commanded to be filled with the Holy Ghost.
 - (b) God would not command us to be baptized in the Holy Ghost because we've already been baptized in the Holy Spirit at the point of salvation.
 - (i) 1 Corinthians 12:13
 1. That's Spirit baptism.
 - (c) In Spirit baptism, we are placed into the body of Christ.
 - (d) When we're filled with the Spirit, our body is now yielded to Christ.
 - (i) Every part of our body is to be yielded to Him because we are His body.
 - iii) There are two kinds of baptism:
 - (1) Spiritual baptism
 - (a) This is baptism by the Spirit.
 - (2) Physical baptism
 - (a) This is baptism by water.
 - (3) Matthew 3:11
 - iv) When believers in the Lord Jesus receive Christ and are baptized by the Spirit into the body of Christ, then they should show it by water baptism.
 - (1) It is not water baptism that puts you into Christ; it is Spirit baptism that does so.

- (2) Water baptism is the outward symbol and proclamation that you belong to the Lord Jesus Christ.
- d) There is a single body.
 - i) 1 Corinthians 12:13
 - (1) We are baptized into a single body.
 - (2) He takes many of us and makes us one body in the Lord Jesus Christ.
 - ii) Ephesians 4:4
 - (1) That is why there is true unity of all true believers in the Lord Jesus.
- 4) THE FELLOWSHIP OF THE BODY (1 CORINTHIANS 12:15-16)
 - a) Because we are in the body, we share a common life.
 - i) 1 Corinthians 12:15-16
 - (1) We are bound together.
 - (2) We share a common life because the Holy Spirit that is in you is the Holy Spirit that is in me.
 - ii) We belong to one another.
 - iii) We can't be in competition with one another, nor should we live in isolation from one another.
 - iv) Each member of the body is important.
 - v) God made us where we need one another.
 - (1) God made us different so that He could make us one.
 - (2) None of us could function apart from one another.
 - vi) We have significance as we find ourselves in the body.
 - (1) There are some members of the body that are not as visible as other members, but they are just as vital and just as important.
 - b) We are to show a common love.
 - i) 1 Corinthians 12:25-26
 - ii) Because we're in the same body, there can be no arrogance.
 - (1) We can never say that we don't need one another.
 - iii) There can be no envy.
 - iv) There can be no rivalry.
 - (1) We belong to one another.
 - v) There can be no self-sufficiency where one member tries to operate apart from another.
 - vi) There can be no disunity where one doesn't like another.
 - vii) We're not divided.
 - (1) All one body.
 - (2) One in hope, doctrine and charity.
 - viii) When one member suffers, every member suffers.
 - ix) When one member rejoices, every member rejoices with it.
 - (1) When we go to church and share our sorrows, our sorrows are divided.
 - (2) When we share our joys, our joys are multiplied.
 - c) We serve the same Lord.

- i) 1 Corinthians 12:27
 - (1) Loyalty to Jesus means loyalty to His body.
- ii) You cannot love Jesus without loving what Jesus loves.
 - (1) We ought to love the church because God's Son loves the church.

5) CONCLUSION

- a) You are somebody in His body.
 - i) Accept yourself.
 - ii) Be yourself.
 - (1) Don't try to be somebody else.
 - iii) Give yourself.
 - (1) Every part of the body gives.
- b) When we work together, the Lord Jesus will be shown.
- c) You become part of the body when you get saved.
 - i) Are you saved?
- d) Do you know Jesus personally? If not, you can pray to Him today by asking Him to come into your life.
- e) Call upon Jesus today. Repent (turn) from your sins, and turn to Jesus. Ask Him to forgive you of your sins, and acknowledge Him as Lord of your life.
 - i) Romans 3:23
 - ii) Romans 10:9-10
 - iii) Romans 10:13
 - iv) Acts 16:31
 - v) John 3:16