

SERMON: A Unified People
SERIES: Who We Are
SPEAKER: Dr. Harry Fletcher

January 7, 2018

CONNECT (5-10 minutes): Help the members of the group grow in relationships with one another so all people in the group know they matter. Spend some time discovering what is happening in the lives of your group members. Share how God has been revealing himself in each other's lives.

REVIEW (15-20 minutes): Use this time to review the passage and the sermon outline (see below).

Note: this is a great opportunity to share leadership.

Use these simple questions to review the sermon/passage or for if you don't have much time:

1. What does this passage teach you about God? About us?
2. How does this passage point us to the gospel? How does it challenge you? Change you?

SCRIPTURE:

1 Corinthians 12:12- 26

¹² For just as the body is one and has many members, and all the members of the body, though many, are one body, so it is with Christ. ¹³ For in one Spirit we were all baptized into one body—Jews or Greeks, slaves or free—and all were made to drink of one Spirit.

¹⁴ For the body does not consist of one member but of many. ¹⁵ If the foot should say, "Because I am not a hand, I do not belong to the body," that would not make it any less a part of the body. ¹⁶ And if the ear should say, "Because I am not an eye, I do not belong to the body," that would not make it any less a part of the body. ¹⁷ If the whole body were an eye, where would be the sense of hearing? If the whole body were an ear, where would be the sense of smell? ¹⁸ But as it is, God arranged the members in the body, each one of them, as he chose. ¹⁹ If all were a single member, where would the body be? ²⁰ As it is, there are many parts, yet one body.

²¹ The eye cannot say to the hand, "I have no need of you," nor again the head to the feet, "I have no need of you." ²² On the contrary, the parts of the body that seem to be weaker are indispensable, ²³ and on those parts of the body that we think less honorable we bestow the greater honor, and our unpresentable parts are treated with greater modesty, ²⁴ which our more presentable parts do not require. But God has so composed the body, giving greater honor to the part that lacked it, ²⁵ that there may be no division in the body, but that the members may have the same care for one another. ²⁶ If one member suffers, all suffer together; if one member is honored, all rejoice together.

²⁷ Now you are the body of Christ and individually members of it. ²⁸ And God has appointed in the church first apostles, second prophets, third teachers, then miracles, then gifts of healing, helping, administrating, and various kinds of tongues. ²⁹ Are all apostles? Are all prophets? Are all teachers? Do all work miracles? ³⁰ Do all possess gifts of healing? Do all speak with tongues? Do all interpret? ³¹ But earnestly desire the higher gifts.

SERMON OUTLINE:

I. The formation of the Body of Christ.

- The Body established.
- The Body explained.

II. The facets of the Body of Christ.

- The diversity of the Body.
- the dependence of the Body.

III. The function of the Body.

- We become more like God.
- God wants us to get along.
- Good practice for eternity.

GROW (45-60 minutes): Use this time to go deeper with your group.

Use these questions to discuss the sermon/passage:

1. Think about and discuss this phrase from Dr. Fletcher: "Ministry takes place when we appropriate divine resources (Spirit, Word, Body) in order to meet human needs through loving channels to the glory of God." What stands out to you from this statement? In what ways are you seeing it happen in your life?
2. Re-read verses 12-13. "You can't separate Christ from the Body." If you are connected to Christ, then you are connected to the Body. How would you describe your connection to the Body (the church)? Why is connection to church so important to you personally?
3. Re-read verses 14-26. Why is unity so important in our diversity? Why is diversity so essential to our unity? How does diversity in a church reflect the gospel?
4. Read Philippians 2:3-4. What will the love and humility of Christ look like when we let it reign in our church? How does the truth of what Christ has done for you cause you to have this kind of love and humility?

Spend time thanking God for the unity and diversity in our church, and asking God to increase our love, humility, and selflessness.