

EKKLESIA #5: 1 CORINTHIANS 12:12-31 "WE ARE ONE BODY"

WHAT DOES A house, farm, temple, bride, family, flock, olive tree, human body

- **METAPHORS** – Bea PICS - COMMON DENOMINATOR? **SINGULAR – ONE**

In a culture so divided where can you find real unity? **Ans should be the church**

- **YET MOST DIVISIVE MOMENT AMERICAN CHURCH HISTORY**

We can have disagreements (will) – but divisiveness, name calling, labeling, attacking

Ephesians 4:5-6 There is one body and one Spirit—just as you were called to the one hope that belongs to your call— one Lord, one faith, one baptism, ⁶one God and Father of all, who is over all and through all and in all. ⁷ But grace was given to each one of us according to the measure of Christ's gift.

- 1 BODY – FAV – parts/purposed united interdependent, Living, Active, working collectively for a single purpose – is that your church experience?

MP: When you were born again, you were born again into the church, the Body of Christ where He intends you to be an engaged and active member, worshipping Him exclusively, building up your brothers and sisters and reaching the world with the gospel.

WE ARE ONE BODY IN CHRIST (v.12-14)

ONE BECAUSE OF THE EXCLUSIVITY OF OUR FAITH

- IDOLATRY PERM: national / professio / family – PICTURE GOING **(XIAN NO)**

1 Thessalonians 1:9 For they themselves declare concerning us what manner of entry we had to you, and how you turned to God from idols to serve the living and true God

- o u couldn't take or leave the church / **didn't fit anywhere else** **BAPTISM**

Christian baptism was a one-time rite that functioned to mark the separation of the initiate from his/her pre-Christian past and to signify transition into membership in the new faith community the *ekklesia* (the church.) Larry Hurtado – Destroyer of the Gods Redeemed together. Justified together. Forgiven together. Created new together. Our needs met together. Loved by God together. Perfected together. Worship only One God together and reject the worship of false gods together. Live forever together.

UNITY OF THE BODY IS CREATED IN JESUS

- PURCHASED - BLOOD BOUGHT – DIVINELY CREATED TF **SUPERNATURAL**

not unified because we dress the same, think same, talk the same, have same tastes, shop at same stores, share political opinion, edu same, similar personalities

- **BC IN CHRIST** – UNIFIER: faith – born again – baptized into church - **gathered**

The beauty of God's diversity in creation is most perfectly pictured among His people.

WE ARE DEEPLY INTERCONNECTED (v.15-26)

The way Paul describes our unity – WARNING AGAINST PEOPLE WHO DIVIDE US

Colossians 2:18-19 Let no one cheat you of your reward, taking delight in *false* humility and worship of angels, intruding into those things which he has not seen, vainly puffed up by his fleshly mind, ¹⁹and not holding fast to the Head, from whom all the body, nourished and knit together by joints and ligaments, grows with the increase *that is* from God.

Divider: cheats you, appears humble isn't, distracted peripheral issues, not clinging JC
The greatest threat to God's church is denying the unity that Christ created for us.

WE NEED EACH OTHER – I'm fiercely independent

CHURCH ISN'T SOMETHING THAT YOU **ATTEND** – like a watching a game from stands

- may not be quantity time but quality time – You can't have quality w/o quantity

58% eng weekly Sunday gather (28% higher nat.aver) - 26% engaged in a life group

MEASURE – WHEN WE FEEL WHAT EACH OTHER FEELS

- **Physically hurt – whole body felt it**

1 Corinthians 12:26 And if one member suffers, all the members suffer with *it*; or if one member is honored, all the members rejoice with *it*.

- don't really know what's going on in people's lives here – **EXACTLY PROBLEM**

If we are the Addams Family – **you're hand – disconnected and unknown**

Dem Dry Bones – taught skeletal anatomy: foot bone con-nected to leg-bone, leg bone connected to knee bone, knee bone connected to thigh bone, thigh bone connected to back bone, back bone connected to neck bone neck bone connected to the head bone

E-ze-kiel cried, "Dem dry bones!" Oh hear the word of the Lord

INDIV WE DISCOVER VALUE AS WE USE OUR GIFTS TO SERVE THE BODY (v.27-31)

2 CATEGORIES: CLERGY/LAITY – DON'T THINK U HAVE ANYTHING TO OFFER

- WALK STAGE (I'm PART – leading past/teach – just ME) – **OFF STAGE TODAY**

28% serve in a ministry (**7% lower national average dropped post pandemic**)

Romans 12:4-11 There are diversities of gifts, but the same Spirit. ⁵ There are differences of ministries, but the same Lord. ⁶ And there are diversities of activities, but it is the same God who works all in all. ⁷ But the manifestation of the Spirit is given to each one for the profit *of all*: ⁸ for to one is given the word of wisdom through the Spirit, to another the word of knowledge through the same Spirit, ⁹ to another faith by the same Spirit, to another gifts of healings by the same Spirit, ¹⁰ to another the working of miracles, to another prophecy, to another discerning of spirits, to another *different* kinds of tongues, to another the interpretation of tongues. ¹¹ But one and the same Spirit works all these things, distributing to each one individually as He wills.

Our personal identity is more fully known when we function in service to the rest of the Body.

EVERY1 HERE GIFTED – early church naturally bc lived in community (no need spiritual gifts test – living community was test) – stepping out in faith was a way of life.

HOW WE LIVE THIS OUT

PRAYER – what are my spiritual gifts (how I understood) -