

THE BEAUTY OF THE CHURCH BODY

Sunday, October 25, 2020 — RELUNCH PICNIC SUNDAY— Pastor Andrew Coleman

1 CORINTHIANS 12:14-27

“The Body Life of the Church”

English Standard Version

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.

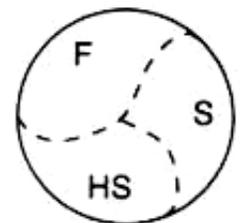
1. Notice the Trinity’s work in designing the church body:

- God the Son’s work in building the church vs. 12
- God the Spirit’s work in building the church vs 13
- God the Father’s work in building the church vs 18, 24

A -- This is the work of God, not man!

B -- A massive characteristic of the **God-head** is its relational and unified nature.

C -- So it is with the Church body... it is relational and unified.



Acts 20:28 Paul’s Final Words to the Pastors at Ephesus

Pay careful attention to yourselves and to all the flock, in which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers, to care for the church of God, which he obtained with his own blood.

Entry to the true Church is ONLY through faith in Christ’s death & resurrection.

2. Notice God's Glorious Vision for the church:

A -- God's vision is for unified fellowship. vs 12 & 14
vs 25 -- no divisions among you.

Response to problem in ch 1:13

Possible sources of factions:

- Different teachers
- Different ethnicities
- Different classes
- Different politics
- Different... (??)

B -- vs 26 is the healthy, Godly, proper response.

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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.

3. Notice Two Threats to God's Vision for the church:

Some Christians reveal they do not understand God's vision for the church...

A -- some feel inferior or insignificant vs. 15-16

B -- some feel superior or self-sufficient vs. 21

4. Notice Paul's Correction of the wrong thinking of the Church:

A -- Paul corrects both groups... vs 15-16 and 21

B -- Paul explains the correction. vs. 17-19

- You are all part of one body. vs 19
- You are all important! vs. 22-23

APPLICATION of this PASSAGE to the SHERIDAN HILLS CHURCH FAMILY:

- 1) Membership in the local church is biblical and important to the Christian life.
- 2) Separating ourselves from the local church is an unbiblical idea.
- 3) Our commitment to unity must transcend our likely differences.
- 4) Our lives must be lived as if we interdepend upon one another.
A -- You must depend upon others.
B -- You must be dependable to others.
- 5) Every member must use their gifts and abilities for the body to function.
- 6) We must accept and value care from all parts of the body.

ACTION YOU CAN TAKE:

- 1) Repent & believe that Christ died for your sins. Receive Him! see John 1:12
- 2) Be baptized into the Covenant Membership of the church body.
- 3) Commit yourself to Scripture, prayer and Lord's Day worship.
- 4) Connect yourself deeply to other Christians (Community Groups, Growth Groups).
- 5) Carry the Gospel to all the World... locally and globally.