"The Body of Christ"
1 Corinthians 12:12-31

C.I.T.-Jesus expects Christians to follow Him in community.
C.I.S.-Maximize your Christian walk by following Jesus in community.
Purpose—I want Christians to recognize the importance of being in community and commit to whatever the next step is for community.
Introduction—Born again, you get a spiritual family

I. ***Jesus designed Christians for church.*** 12-17
- a. Metaphor of the body—unified members all making up one body.
- b. Universal expression
  - i. Universal church is the genuine church made up of all believers of all time.
  - ii. This includes more than just Baptists.
  - iii. In a sense, this is the universal body of believers/body of Christ.
- c. Local expression
  - i. Local church is expression of Universal.
  - ii. We can see this church, it can pray for us, encourage us, and teach us.
  - iii. This passage is referring to the local expression of the universal body of Christ, the local church.
- d. The local church should be viewed as one unified body made up of multiple individual parts.
  - i. Each part has a specific role to play.
  - ii. Each part has been given the necessary gifts and abilities to fulfill that role.
- e. The Body and the parts need one another.
  - **i. 1 Corinthians 12:15-17, 19-21, 26**
  - **ii. Ephesians 4: 12-15**
  - **iii. Hebrews 10: 24-25**
- f. His plan for your growth personally, and for reaching the world is the church.

II. ***Jesus picks your church***. Vs. 18
- a. **1 Peter 2:4-5**—Jesus assigns where we are in the wall of His house.
- b. He calls us individually to the specific church that he wants us to join.
- c. We do not join because we make a decision to do so, we join because we are following His will for our life.
- d. How do we pick a church?
  - i. Church shopping--comparative
  - ii. Worship style preference.
  - iii. Ministries for my family needs.
  - iv. Handsome preacher/humble preacher
  - v. What does the church offer me?
- e. Guidance:
  - i. Prayer and fellowship with Christ.
  - ii. Theological Alignment
  - iii. Missional Alignment
- f. If Jesus picks our church, then what role do we play, we respond to His leadership by connecting with a church.
- g. Illus.—A body with the wrong parts
- h. Application
  - i. Explore Ministries
  - ii. We want you to explore our ministries to discern if this is where God is calling you.

iii. If you explore our church, and realize that the Lord is not calling you here, then you should start looking elsewhere to explore those options.
iv. But, if you have determined that this is your church home, then you need to "join" this church and affirm God's calling to become a member of this church.

III. ***Jesus picks your part*.** Vs. 18
a. He determines which part of the body you are.
b. You must accept that part and be that part.
c. **Eph. 4:15-16**—fitted together
d. Illus.—Body with missing parts
e. Application
i. Connect Ministries
ii. Benefits of Sunday School
1. Age-graded-similar life stages
2. Biblical instruction—smaller group allows deeper dives and dialogue
3. Practical ministry—we cannot know all of the needs nor organize to minister to them in this setting.
4. Fellowship/relationship building
5. Opportunity to serve one another
iii. You do not have to be a church member to be enrolled in Sunday School.
iv. You do not have to be saved to enroll in Sunday School.
v. But this is the expression of how we make a large church small.
vi. If you only have one hour to come to church, come to Sunday School.

IV. ***Jesus picks your ministry***. Vs. 27-31
a. Ephesians 4:7, 11-12
b. Romans 12: 4-8
c. It is expected for each part to know what they are and serve their function
d. Illus.—when you foot falls asleep
e. Application
i. Grow ministries—help discern what part you are and develop the skills to fulfill the role.
ii. Serve Ministries—actually getting to work.

Conclusion

- Each one of these steps requires a response on your part.
- Jesus picks your church, but you have to respond by joining that church.
  - If you feel that you need to join this church, after the service, we ask that you go to the library to visit with a decision counselor.
  - If you feel you need to go public with your faith through baptism, we ask that you go to the library to visit with a decision counselor.
- Jesus picks your part, but you have to respond by connecting with the other parts of the body.
  - If you need to enroll in a Sunday School class, you can check with one of the Information Centers or check a box on the Serve Card.
- Jesus picks your ministry, but you have to enroll in that ministry to serve.
  - Serve cards in the pews.
- Pass out the serve cards and collect them.

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Ephesians 4:12 equipping the saints for the work of ministry, to build up the body of Christ, 13 until we all
reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of God's Son, growing into maturity with a stature measured
by Christ's fullness. 14 Then we will no longer be little children, tossed by the waves and blown around by
every wind of teaching, by human cunning with cleverness in the techniques of deceit. 15 But speaking the
truth in love, let us grow in every way into him who is the head-- Christ.

Hebrews 10:24 And let us watch out for one another to provoke love and good works, 25 not neglecting to
gather together, as some are in the habit of doing, but encouraging each other, and all the more as you
see the day approaching.

1 Peter 2:4 As you come to him, a living stone-- rejected by people but chosen and honored by God-- 5
you yourselves, as living stones, a spiritual house, are being built to be a holy priesthood to offer spiritual
sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ.

Ephesians 4:15 But speaking the truth in love, let us grow in every way into him who is the head-- Christ.
16 From him the whole body, fitted and knit together by every supporting ligament, promotes the growth of
the body for building up itself in love by the proper working of each individual part.

Ephesians 4:7 Now grace was given to each one of us according to the measure of Christ's gift
Ephesians 4:11 And he himself gave some to be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, some
pastors and teachers, 12 equipping the saints for the work of ministry, to build up the body of Christ,

Romans 12:4 Now as we have many parts in one body, and all the parts do not have the same function, 5
in the same way we who are many are one body in Christ and individually members of one another. 6
According to the grace given to us, we have different gifts: If prophecy, use it according to the proportion
of one's faith; 7 if service, use it in service; if teaching, in teaching; 8 if exhorting, in exhortation; giving,
with generosity; leading, with diligence; showing mercy, with cheerfulness.