



Series:

WELCOME TO "CHURCH"

Title:

The Body of Christ for the Body of Christ. Communion and Community.

Preacher:

Brian Townsend

Notes

Scriptures to reflect on:

"¹²The eye cannot say to the hand, "I don't need you!" And the head cannot say to the feet, "I don't need you!" ²² On the contrary, those parts of the body that seem to be weaker are indispensable, ²³ and the parts that we think are less honorable we treat with special honor. And the parts that are unpresentable are treated with special modesty, ²⁴ while our presentable parts need no special treatment. But God has put the body together, giving greater honor to the parts that lacked it, ²⁵ so that there should be no division in the body, but that its parts should have equal concern for each other. ²⁶ If one part suffers, every part suffers with it; if one part is honored, every part rejoices with it. ²⁷ Now you are the body of Christ, and each one of you is a part of it. ²⁸ And God has placed in the church first of all apostles, second prophets, third teachers, then miracles, then gifts of healing, of helping, of guidance, and of different kinds of tongues. ²⁹ Are all apostles? Are all prophets? Are all teachers? Do all work miracles? ³⁰ Do all have gifts of healing? Do all speak in tongues? Do all interpret? ³¹ Now eagerly desire the greater gifts. And yet I will show you the most excellent way.... ¹³ If I speak in the tongues of men or of angels, but do not have love, I am only a resounding gong or a clanging cymbal. ² If I have the gift of prophecy and can fathom all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have a faith that can move mountains, but do not have love, I am nothing. ³ If I give all I possess to the poor and give over my body to hardship that I may boast, but do not have love, I gain nothing. ⁴ Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. ⁵ It does not dishonor others, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. ⁶ Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. ⁷ It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres. ⁸ Love never fails." (I Corinthians 12:21- 13:8a)

Sermon review:

- The members of your body care about the other members of your body. It is meant to be the same in the Body of Christ. If one member hurts, we all hurt. We are all members of one Body.
- The Body of Christ offers counter-cultural community. Those members that are weaker are given honor. What we offer the world is not an amazing group of gifted and passionate people. We offer the world a taste of King Jesus who doesn't equate a person's value with production and contribution.
- The Body of Christ offers the world a King who offered His Body to be Broken so that one day we would be whole.
- It is not our gifts that we offer to Jesus at the table that make us welcome. It is our own brokenness and need that unites us. As loved people we are to live in love-accepting and caring for the "weak" among us.
- Every member might not be able to offer the same talents, time, and resources. Every member can offer the Body an opportunity to love and be loved. And, the world will know us by our love.



Reflection

Re-read and reflect on the passage from I Corinthians 12. Think about your body. What parts of your body ache or you wish were younger or healthier. How does that impact your mood and your movement? Now... think about times in your life in the Body of Christ when you have been hurting or scared or in need.

Now think about church culture in general and answer the following...

- 1) How good is the church at hurting when other members hurt and rejoicing when they rejoice?
- 2) How good is the church at showing “weaker” members honor and making sure that every member is made to feel important?
- 3) On a scale of 1 to 10 how “safe” is church culture in general for people to even admit their problems or let themselves be weak?

Now some personal questions...

1. Did you have anyone that you felt safe enough to confide in who shared your burdens?
2. Was it easy or hard to let yourself be “weak” and reach out for help?
3. On a scale of 1 to 10, how “safe” a person are you so that others reach out to you when they are “weak?”

Now, dream with me...

What could we do at SVCC to truly be the Body of Christ where individual members/body parts felt seen, cared for, and important? (Would you do me a favor and email them to me at brian@svccfamily.org because your input is important to me!)

Finally... in preparation for the weeks to come. Let’s talk about those 3 circles that were drawn on your tables last week. Here is where we are going and how you can prepare.

- Let the **Green** represent your Spiritual Gifts and Abilities.
- The **Red** represents your Passions, Personality, and Experiences that have shaped you.
- The **Blue** Circle represents the needs in the church and the world around you that most resonate with you.
- The **"Star ☆"** is your "sweet spot" of purpose and mission.

One way you love the world around you is by giving yourself to the needs of those around you. You have gifts and abilities and experiences that the Body of Christ at SVCC should be celebrating and using if we are to fill the world with the fullness of the Body of Christ!

Look over the TEAM insert you picked up and begin to pray about where you would be a great fit! We will talk more about this next week, but I want you to begin the process of reflecting on these things.

