

“Understanding the Church as One But Many ” 10/18/09

Romans 12:3-6a

Sermon Series - “Understanding the Nature and Function of the Church”

Vine, flock, vineyard, sheep, family, bride, wife, building

READ ROMANS 12:3-6A

POINT 1- The concept of the body of Christ is rooted in PERSONIFICATION

- A. God uses the metaphor of the body for the church UNIVERSAL
(Ephesians 1:23; 2:16; 4:4; 5:23, 29-30; Colossians 1:24; 2:19)
- B. God uses the metaphor of the body for the church LOCAL
(1 Corinthians 10:17; 12:12-27; Ephesians 4:25)

Going Deeper *God wants us to know and respond to His choice of “body”!*

“The body of Christ in the local congregation is meant to function intimately together like the parts of a body complementing each other and mutually nourishing and serving each other.” Michael Griffiths, God’s Forgetful Pilgrims (p.54)

POINT 2- The concept of the body of Christ is rooted in PRACTICE

What are the 2 greatest commandments? (Matt 22:36-40)-no islands allowed!

- A. The practice of the body should be focused on UNITY
(**Ephesians 4:1-3**; Ps 133:1; Luke 22:34; Acts 15:36-39; Gal 2; Eph 4:32)
- B. The practice of the body should be focused on DIVERSITY
(1 Corinthians 12:7-27; 1 Peter 4:10; Romans 12:4-6; Ephesians 4:7)
- C. The practice of the body should be focused on SOVEREIGNTY
(**Col 2:19**; 1 Cor 6:19; 12:11-gifts; 2:16-mind of Christ; Body of Christ)
- D. The practice of the body should be focused on COMPLEMENTARY
(1 Corinthians 12:26; 21 “no need of you”; 12:7 “profit of all”)
- E. The practice of the body should be focused on MATURITY
(Ephesians 4:12-16; Colossians 2:19 “grows together”)

Going Deeper *God wants us to live with a pervasive attitude of community!*

What does a fit body (church) look like? Forgiving, loving, greeting, inviting, encouraging, saving, preaching, caring, serving....

“And let the peace that comes from Christ rule in your hearts. For as members of one body you are called to live in peace. And always be thankful.” Col 3:15