

On Your Death Bed – What Would You Say?

The Standard (John 13:34-35)

The standard for my relationships within the body is...Christ's love for me.

This kind of love is COMMANDED.

This kind of love is CHRIST - CENTERED.

How Christ Love Me...

1. FIRST (I John 4:19)
2. DEMONSTRABLY (John 3:16; I John 3:18)
3. SACRIFICIALLY (I Peter 3:18)
4. UNCONDITIONALLY (Romans 5:8)

This kind of love is CONTAGIOUS.

Where Do We Go From Here? (I John 4:7-11)

We cannot love the Lord if we are indifferent to the people the Lord loves.

Be an EXAMPLE! Gal 5:13 "... through love serve one another."

Teach the WORD! II Tim 4:2 "preach the Word...reprove, rebuke, exhort, with great patience and instruction."

Do not tolerate a public pattern of "relational sin" in the Body of Christ!

Sermon Notes Week of February 3, 2008 "Be The Church – For Each Other" Body Building Part II Ephesians 4:12-16

Introduction: God's blue print for His church.

Mt. 16:18 – Jesus said "I will build My church." Two obvious observations:

1. Building must be according to His plan.
2. Building by human means competes with Christ's work.

I: God's dynamic plan for His church (v.12).

Equip, Serve, Build

Saints def. = refers to those who are SET APART by God by salvation.

1. **Equipping** refers to something being RESTORED to its original condition – complete.

Four tools for equipping:

Tool #1 – God's Word (II Ti. 3:16-17; Jn. 15:3)

Tool #2 – Prayer (Co. 4:12-13)

Tool #3 – Testing (Ja. 1:2-4)

Tool #4 – Suffering (I Pe. 5:10; Ph. 3:10; II Co. i:4-5)

"Spiritual growth does not always involve LEARNING something new."

2. **Service** refers to the saints serving one another effectively. The entire church body should be aggressively involved in Christ's work (I Co. 15:58; I Pe. 2, 5, 9; I Pe. 4:10-11)
3. **Building up.** Proper EQUIPPING by the evangelist and pastor-teachers leads to PROPER service which inevitably results in BODY BUILDING. That is, the building up of the body of Christ.

The body is built up:

EXTERNALLY through evangelism.

Internally through NURTURING to fruitful service through the Word.



“Be The Church – For Each Other”

Body Building Part III

Ephesians 4:12-16

II: God’s dynamic purpose for His church (v. 13-15). God’s ultimate objective.

Objective #1 – Unity of the faith

Objective #2 – Knowledge of Christ

(1) Spiritual maturity – God’s ultimate result

(2) Sound doctrine

(3) Loving testimony

Result of loving authentic testimony: WE GROW INTO THE VERY LIKENESS OF JESUS CHRIST (v. 15)

III: God’s dynamic power for His church (v. 16).

The words “joined” and “held” together refer to a CLOSE, tight, compacted correlation of FUNCTION in the body as an organism is the result of Christ’s POWER.

“Joints” are points of CONTRAST.

Christ is the source of the LIFE and POWER and growth of the church.

Christ facilitates life, power, and growth through each believer’s GIFTS and mutual ministry in joints touching other believers.

Where Christ’s disciples have close RELATIONSHIPS of genuine SPIRITUAL ministry – God works!

Paul’s warning:

“and not holding fast to the Head, from whom the whole body, nourished and knit together through its joints and ligaments, grows with a growth that is from God.” Co. 2:19

Conclusion:

As with all living organisms, spiritual growth in the church does not come from forces outside but from dynamic powers within that “Makes the body grow so that it builds itself up in love” v. 16.

RELATING WITHIN THE BODY

The Lord’s Desire (Gal. 5:22-23)

LOVE- JOY – PEACE

PATIENCE – KINDNESS – GOODNESS

FAITHFULNESS – GENTLENESS – SELF-CONTROL

The Reality (Gal. 5:19-21)

The “works of the flesh” include...

MORAL Sins (immorality, impurity, sensuality);

WORSHIP Sins (idolatry, sorcery, witchcraft);

SOCIAL Sins (drunkenness, carousing); and...

RELATIONAL Sins

1. ENMITY: dislike or animosity toward another
2. STRIFE/DISCORD: open conflict and fighting
3. JEALOUSY: resenting someone else’s accomplishments or relationships
4. FITS OF ANGER: fits of rage
5. RIVALRIES/FACTIONS: desire to win or succeed for my own selfish motives
6. DISSENSIONS: controversy that goes beyond God-honoring dialogue
7. DIVISIONS: choosing sides on an issue; marshalling support
8. ENVY: craving another’s possessions, position, or influence

Insights
