



Matthew 11:16-19, 25-30
New International Version

1 Corinthians 12:12-20,27(NIV)

Just as a body, though one, has many parts, but all its many parts form one body, so it is with Christ. For we were all baptized by one Spirit so as to form one body—whether Jews or Gentiles, slave or free—and we were all given the one Spirit to drink. Even so the body is not made up of one part but of many.

Now if the foot should say, “Because I am not a hand, I do not belong to the body,” it would not for that reason stop being part of the body. And if the ear should say, “Because I am not an eye, I do not belong to the body,” it would not for that reason stop being part of the body. If the whole body were an eye, where would the sense of hearing be? If the whole body were an ear, where would the sense of smell be? But in fact God has placed the parts in the body, every one of them, just as he wanted them to be. If they were all one part, where would the body be? As it is, there are many parts, but one body.

Now you are the body of Christ, and each one of you is a part of it.

Fred Warring “Let us live to make men free.”



Sermon Notes

What does it mean to be unique?

Competitive: Rising above the crowd

Individualistic: look at me

Celebrity: separate and distinct

What does it mean to be the Church?

Everyone is GIFTED

Life is not easy for any of us. But what of that? We must have perseverance and above all confidence in ourselves. We must believe that we are gifted for something and that this thing must be attained.
Marie Curie

For the common GOOD

- i. Indispensible: something to offer
- ii. Beneficial: supportive and sacrificial
- iii. Synergistic: combined effect greater than the sum of separate effects

To express the Kingdom of God

It is our joy to inspire the lives of others, to carry their burdens, and to fill empty hearts with a generous portion of love.

LIVING WORD

Jesus says, "To what can I compare this generation? It is like CHILDREN PLAYING A GAME.... They complain to their friends, 'We played wedding songs, and YOU DIDN'T DANCE, so we played funeral songs, and you didn't mourn' ... But wisdom is shown to be right by its results." (Mt 11:16-19 NLT)

What is Jesus getting at here? We are fickle, contrary and unwilling to commit. No matter what was suggested, they did not want to do it; and no matter what was offered, they found a fault in it. John lived a life of an OT Prophet and they called him "mad", Jesus came eating and greeting everyone to show us how to have life abundantly and we call him a socialite.

If people are determined to make no response to God, they will remain stubbornly critical no matter what invitation is made to them. Grown men and women can be very much like spoiled children who refuse to play no matter what the game is. If they are in charge then no one else can be, including God.

The people criticized John for his strange appearance, but John moved their hearts to God as no one had moved them for centuries; the Jews might criticized Jesus for mixing too much in the ordinary life with sinners, but in him people were finding new life and new access to God. You can criticize John and Jesus for their methods, you cannot criticize their results.

If I was to translate it into our culture I think Jesus is saying something like this... "You want Me to dance to the music you are playing the way you like to play it, according to your preferences, but you don't realize that it is WAY OUT OF TUNE. I am waiting for you to ASK ME TO PLAY the music of eternity that was written for you by God Himself. I am waiting for you to dance and sing and live in harmony with Me and yourself."

Life, like a dance, requires someone to lead and one to follow.

The church is a family. There are many analogies for a Christian disconnected from a church: a football player without a team, a soldier without a platoon, a tuba player without an orchestra and a sheep without a flock. But the most understandable (and biblical) picture is that of a child without a family.

God does not want his children growing up in isolation from each other so he created a spiritual family on earth for us. Paul reminds us in Ephesians 2:19 (LB): "... you are members of God's very own family ... and you belong in God's household with every other Christian." A Christian without a church family is an orphan. ~ Rick Warren

"It is the highest and holiest of the paradoxes that the man who really knows he cannot pay his debt will be forever paying it." — G. K. Chesterton