



Life Group Sermon Study Notes

“We Are Family: Sermon Title”

Sr. Ps. James Lowe – September 6, 2020

Warm Up (10-15 minutes)

Choose a question below to answer, or ask another. No right or wrong answers.

- What’s your favorite sport and why?
- Given the choice when traveling overnight, would you rather stay at a traditional hotel or an Airbnb?

Word (10-15 minutes)

Sermons can be heard online at www.bethelworld.org

1 Corinthians 12:12-20

12 For just as the body is one and has many members, and all the members of the body, though many, are one body, so it is with Christ. 13 For in one Spirit we were all baptized into one body—Jews or Greeks, slaves[d] or free—and all were made to drink of one Spirit. 14 For the body does not consist of one member but of many. 15 If the foot should say, “Because I am not a hand, I do not belong to the body,” that would not make it any less a part of the body. 16 And if the ear should say, “Because I am not an eye, I do not belong to the body,” that would not make it any less a part of the body. 17 If the whole body were an eye, where would be the sense of hearing? If the whole body were an ear, where would be the sense of smell? 18 But as it is, God arranged the members in the body, each one of them, as he chose. 19 If all were a single member, where would the body be? 20 As it is, there are many parts yet one body.

We all sense a spirit of division prevalent in our culture. It’s evident in our different ideas on politics and race. This division can lead to isolation and animosity for people who don’t see things in a way we agree with. Yet we all know the value of belonging and being accepted amongst family and friends. Is it not just as important in spiritual family? **We have a choice to operate under the thought process that divisiveness is just how things will be or embrace the possibility for betterment proposed in scripture.**

The church at Corinth had the threat of division due to social, ethnical, and political tensions. The answer that the apostle Paul gave was centered on a comparison between human ability and wisdom versus the power available to humanity because of Jesus Christ. **One way that Paul address the proclivity to be divided is by using the analogy of the human body in parallel with seeing the church as the body of Christ.**

The human body is made up of various parts, yet it is one unit. No part of the human body is able to function alone; equally so, God purposed the body of Christ- members of the church- to function as one. This can be hard to fathom when there are times, we sense that certain members are seen as more honorable than others. Our passage teaches us that those we are in Christ are in the body because it's the same spirit at work in all members of the body. God has chosen to give each member spiritual gifts by his Spirit. If each member doesn't operate in his/her role the body doesn't function properly. God values us as individual members while desiring us to function within the whole for the common good. **It is the Spirit of God that has the power to bring unity in diversity that inevitably exist in humanity.**

Human wisdom would have us focus on what's best for me and mine. God would have us to operate according to his spirit that is inside of us, knowing that it's the same spirit inside every member of the body of Christ.

The good news is that Jesus, the Lord of Peace, is at work to create a global "fellowship of difference". Indeed, there is only one Christian nation in the world, and that nation is called the ekklesia (church) – it is multi-cultural, timeless, borderless, weaponless, and the primary context in which God is at work to pacify enmity between humans and God and humans and one another". – Drew J. Strait

Discussion (10-15 minutes)

Choose one of the points below, and discuss how the lesson applies to our lives.

- What are your spiritual gifts? (1 Cor. 12:8-10;28-30; Romans 12:6-8; Ephesians 4:11)
- Can you recall a time when you didn't feel like you belonged at a local church? Why or why not.
- Do you tend to think about the church from a local and global perspective? Why or why not.

Prayer (10-15 minutes)

Pray for any of the following, as well as other requests you may have.

- Thank God that Jesus is Lord of the church.
- Ask God for a heart to love the church as God loves the church.
- Ask God for unity in the church that can flow to our world.