

LESSON SERMON:

I AM A UNIFYING CHURCH MEMBER

Rev. Charles M. Taylor

Scripture: 1 Corinthians 12:14-26 (NRSV)

Indeed, the body does not consist of one member but of many. If the foot would 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. And if the ear would 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. If the whole body were an eye, where would the hearing be? If the whole body were hearing, where would the sense of smell be? But as it is, God arranged the members in the body, each one of them, as he chose. If all were a single member, where would the body be? As it is, there are many members, yet one body. The eye cannot say to the hand, "I have no need of you," nor again the head to the feet, "I have no need of you." On the contrary, the members of the body that seem to be weaker are indispensable, and those members of the body that we think less honorable we clothe with greater honor, and our less respectable members are treated with greater respect; whereas our more respectable members do not need this. But God has so arranged the body, giving the greater honor to the inferior member, that there may be no dissension within the body, but the members may have the same care for one another. If one member suffers, all suffer together with it; if one member is honored, all rejoice together with it.

Thesis: We have a responsibility as a church member to be a source of unity. We are never to be a divisive force. Unity is vital to the health of a church. That means every church member, you and I included, must contribute to the unity of the church.

1. Gossip is destructive in our church. Nothing destroys the unity of a church like gossip. You can be a unifier in our church and in your family by not participating in gossip.

“For those who desire life and desire to see good days, let them keep their tongues from evil and their lips from speaking deceit.”~ 1 Peter 3:10

2. Forgiveness is essential to the unity of our church. Unity in the church will not happen if members have unforgiving hearts, refuse to forgive or are too prideful to grant forgiveness. “For if you forgive people their wrong doing, your heavenly Father will forgive you as well. But if you don’t forgive people, your Father will not forgive your wrong doing.” ~ Matthew 6:14-15

3. We are in church to:

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“Now you are the body of Christ and members individually.” ~1 Corinthians 12:27

Practice: Read the : A Pledge to Honor Others every day this week.

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