**SERMON OUTLINE**

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| **SERMON TITLE:** | Faithful in Fellowship |
| **SERMON REFERENCE:** | 1 Corinthians 12:12 |
| **LWF SERMON NUMBER:** | #1832 |
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1. INTRODUCTION
	1. There are many ways to describe the church.
		1. It is described as a building, and the members are building blocks with Christ as the foundation.
		2. It is described as a bride with Christ Himself being the groom.
		3. The description that today’s message will focus on is this:
			1. The church is described as a body with Christ as the head, and we are the members of His body.
	2. While Jesus Christ and the church are not identical, they are inseparable.
	3. Many today claim to be Christians, but they say that they don’t believe in organized churches, so they don’t attend.
		1. We’re not to forsake the assembling of ourselves together.
			1. Hebrews 10:25
	4. 1 Corinthians 12:12
		1. You are somebody in His body.
		2. You are important to Jesus; therefore, you are important to His church.
			1. And the church is vitally important to you.
	5. The church is the body of the Lord Jesus Christ, and it is in the church that we have fellowship.
2. the function of a body
	1. The church is analogous to the human body.
	2. In a body, there is a manifested person.
		1. When we look at a person, what we see is not them but their body.
			1. They are on the inside.
		2. The body is our earthly house.
		3. All we know of one another is through the body.
			1. We cannot know anything else about one another apart from the body.
			2. Even the words we write are written through the body.
			3. The words we say are spoken through the body.
		4. The purpose of the church of the Lord Jesus Christ is to manifest Jesus, to make Him known to the world.
			1. As He inhabits our humanity, we display His deity.
			2. Jesus Christ is known through His body.
				1. All that someone knows about the Lord Jesus Christ is through us.
			3. Jesus is the invisible part of the visible church.
				1. The church is the visible part of the invisible Christ.
	3. In a body, there is a ministering purpose.
		1. Our body exists to serve us.
			1. It doesn’t exist for any other purpose, except to do the will of the person who lives inside the body.
		2. We are the hands and feet of the Lord Jesus Christ.
	4. In a body, there must be a motivating power.
		1. What makes our body a body is not only that it has eyes, hands, fingers, feet, legs and arms, but it has life.
			1. There is a spirit in us; the spirit of life.
		2. When a person dies, he gives up the spirit.
		3. What makes a church a body is that it has life.
			1. The church is more than an organization; it is an organism.
		4. The life of our physical body is the spirit.
			1. The life of His body is the Holy Spirit of God.
		5. The church is the body of the Lord Jesus Christ to manifest His person, to minister His purpose, and motivated by the power of the Holy Spirit of God.
			1. Other organizations are clubs.
				1. There is a vital and intrinsic difference between these and the church.
				2. The church has the Holy Spirit.
	5. In a body, there must be a mutual program.
		1. We do it together.
		2. 1 Corinthians 12:13-19
			1. We have many members, but they all have one agenda.
			2. The Bible is not against organization.
				1. Your body is organized.
				2. Some people say that they are against organized religion.

If they mean that they are against an organized church, then they don’t understand the Bible.

* + 1. The body has to be organized in order to function.
			1. If your body ceases to be organized, then you are sick.
		2. Organization is not the purpose for which we exist.
			1. It is to help us meet our purpose.
			2. When organization is working correctly, we’re really not aware of it.
				1. When it’s not working correctly, then we’re very aware of it.
		3. 1 Corinthians 14:40
		4. When my ministry makes problems for your ministry or your ministry makes problems for my ministry, then either one of us or both of us are wrong.
		5. When the members of the body are rightly related to the head, then they have to work together.
1. the formation of the body (1 Corinthians 12:13)
	1. 1 Corinthians 12:13
		1. That one Spirit is the Holy Spirit.
	2. First, there is the supernatural birth.
		1. We are born again.
		2. When we receive the Lord Jesus Christ as our personal Savior, He is to us what water is to our body.
			1. 1 Corinthians 12:13
				1. We drink into one Spirit, the Holy Spirit of God.
			2. John 4:14
			3. He is the water of life.
				1. You will never find satisfaction until you drink from Heaven’s well and draw from the well of salvation.
		3. If you will trust Him today, receive Him, and believe on Him, then He will change your life radically, dramatically and eternally.
			1. You’ll be so glad that you trusted Jesus.
	3. There will be a spiritual baptism.
		1. 1 Corinthians 12:13
			1. The Holy Spirit is the baptizer.
			2. He baptizes us into the body of Christ.
			3. He baptizes believers in Christ.
		2. The Holy Spirit of God places us into the body of Christ when we get saved.
			1. Some people believe that there is a baptism of the Holy Ghost that happens following salvation.
				1. If that were true, then some people would have it and some wouldn’t.
				2. But 1 Corinthians 12:13 says “all” have been baptized into one body.
			2. In the New Testament, no believer is ever commanded to be baptized in the Holy Ghost.
				1. We’re commanded to be filled with the Holy Ghost.
				2. God would not command us to be baptized in the Holy Ghost because we’ve already been baptized in the Holy Spirit at the point of salvation.

1 Corinthians 12:13

That’s Spirit baptism.

* + - * 1. In Spirit baptism, we are placed into the body of Christ.
				2. When we’re filled with the Spirit, our body is now yielded to Christ.

Every part of our body is to be yielded to Him because we are His body.

* + 1. There are two kinds of baptism:
			1. Spiritual baptism
				1. This is baptism by the Spirit.
			2. Physical baptism
				1. This is baptism by water.
			3. Matthew 3:11
		2. When believers in the Lord Jesus receive Christ and are baptized by the Spirit into the body of Christ, then they should show it by water baptism.
			1. It is not water baptism that puts you into Christ; it is Spirit baptism that does so.
			2. Water baptism is the outward symbol and proclamation that you belong to the Lord Jesus Christ.
	1. There is a single body.
		1. 1 Corinthians 12:13
			1. We are baptized into a single body.
			2. He takes many of us and makes us one body in the Lord Jesus Christ.
		2. Ephesians 4:4
			1. That is why there is true unity of all true believers in the Lord Jesus.
1. the fellowship of the body (1 Corinthians 12:15-16)
	1. Because we are in the body, we share a common life.
		1. 1 Corinthians 12:15-16
			1. We are bound together.
			2. We share a common life because the Holy Spirit that is in you is the Holy Spirit that is in me.
		2. We belong to one another.
		3. We can’t be in competition with one another, nor should we live in isolation from one another.
		4. Each member of the body is important.
		5. God made us where we need one another.
			1. God made us different so that He could make us one.
			2. None of us could function apart from one another.
		6. We have significance as we find ourselves in the body.
			1. There are some members of the body that are not as visible as other members, but they are just as vital and just as important.
	2. We are to show a common love.
		1. 1 Corinthians 12:25-26
		2. Because we’re in the same body, there can be no arrogance.
			1. We can never say that we don’t need one another.
		3. There can be no envy.
		4. There can be no rivalry.
			1. We belong to one another.
		5. There can be no self-sufficiency where one member tries to operate apart from another.
		6. There can be no disunity where one doesn’t like another.
		7. We’re not divided.
			1. All one body.
			2. One in hope, doctrine and charity.
		8. When one member suffers, every member suffers.
		9. When one member rejoices, every member rejoices with it.
			1. When we go to church and share our sorrows, our sorrows are divided.
			2. When we share our joys, our joys are multiplied.
	3. We serve the same Lord.
		1. 1 Corinthians 12:27
			1. Loyalty to Jesus means loyalty to His body.
		2. You cannot love Jesus without loving what Jesus loves.
			1. We ought to love the church because God’s Son loves the church.
2. CONCLUSION
	1. You are somebody in His body.
		1. Accept yourself.
		2. Be yourself.
			1. Don’t try to be somebody else.
		3. Give yourself.
			1. Every part of the body gives.
	2. When we work together, the Lord Jesus will be shown.
	3. You become part of the body when you get saved.
		1. Are you saved?
	4. Do you know Jesus personally? If not, you can pray to Him today by asking Him to come into your life.
	5. Call upon Jesus today. Repent (turn) from your sins, and turn to Jesus. Ask Him to forgive you of your sins, and acknowledge Him as Lord of your life.
		1. Romans 3:23
		2. Romans 10:9-10
		3. Romans 10:13
		4. Acts 16:31
		5. John 3:16