

SERMON OUTLINE

SERMON TITLE: Faithful in Friendship

SERMON REFERENCE: 1 Corinthians 12:12, 25

LWF SERMON NUMBER: #1833

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1) INTRODUCTION

- a) 1 Corinthians 12:12, 25
 - i) God made us different and dependent upon one another in order that there should be no schism in the body, but that we would have the same care one for another.
- b) The church is the body of the Lord Jesus Christ.
 - i) Christ is the head.
 - ii) We are the members of the body called the church of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.
- c) The function of a body:
 - i) A body manifests the person who lives in it.
 - (1) Jesus is to be manifested by the way that we live.
 - (a) The way this world will know the Lord Jesus Christ is through His body, the church.
 - (b) He mediates and manifests Himself through us.
 - (2) A body reveals the person inside that body.
 - (a) The church is to reveal the Lord Jesus Christ.
 - ii) A body has life.
 - (1) The life of the church is the Holy Spirit.
 - iii) The body has a purpose, and it is to do the will of the person who lives in the body.
 - (1) The purpose of the church is to do the will of the Lord Jesus Christ.
 - iv) All of the parts of the body function together.
 - (1) We are to function together to serve the Lord.
 - (a) There is to be no disunity.
 - (b) We are to have a common purpose, a common function and a common goal.
- d) The formation of the body:
 - i) When we get saved, the Holy Spirit of God baptizes us into the body of Christ.
 - (1) This is Spirit baptism.
 - (2) Water baptism is a symbol of Spirit baptism.
 - (a) 1 Corinthians 12:13
 - ii) When we get saved, the Holy Spirit comes into us, and then the Holy Spirit puts us into the body of Christ.
 - (1) He is in us, and we are in Him.
 - (2) A Christian is in Christ, and Christ is in the Christian.
 - (a) We are in the body, and Christ is the head of the body.
- e) The fellowship of the body:
 - i) We are to be in fellowship.
 - (1) We share the same life.
 - (2) We show the same love.
 - (3) We serve the same Lord.
 - ii) 1 Corinthians 12:25

- (1) The word “schism” means “division.”
 - iii) It is God’s plan that we care for one another.
 - (1) There can be no arrogance.
 - (a) We cannot be proud and arrogant if we have a gift that others don’t have.
 - (b) Others cannot be proud and arrogant if they have a gift that we don’t have.
 - (2) There can be no envy.
 - (a) We shouldn’t envy another’s gift.
 - (b) 1 Corinthians 12:18
 - (3) There should be no rivalry.
 - (a) When one member prospers, the other members prosper.
 - (b) The more God blesses, the more each of us are blessed because we are in it together.
 - (4) There can be no self-sufficiency.
 - (a) We need one another.
 - (5) There can be no disunity or schism in the body.
 - (a) When the body begins to war against itself, we are tragically sick.
 - f) We are to care for one another.
 - i) Today’s message will mention some ways in which we, as brothers and sisters in Christ, are to care for one another.
 - (1) In the Bible, God gives some “one another” commands.
- 2) WE ARE TO LOVE ONE ANOTHER (JOHN 13:34)
- a) John 13:34
 - i) All of the commandments had been given in the Old Testament, but now Jesus gives a new commandment.
 - ii) This was the last commandment Jesus gave before His arrest, mock trial and crucifixion.
 - b) That badge that a Christian is to wear is the badge of love.
 - i) 1 John 4:20
 - ii) John 13:35
 - c) The Bible commands us to love.
 - i) Love is not optional, but it is not automatic.
 - (1) If it were automatic, then we wouldn’t be commanded to do it.
 - d) This new commandment Jesus gave is that we are to love as He loved.
 - i) John 13:34
 - ii) We are to love with a new quality.
 - iii) The love Jesus is talking about is not just merely doing our neighbor no harm, but it is seeking an opportunity to do him good, even when he doesn’t deserve it.
 - (1) That’s what Jesus did for us.
 - (a) Romans 5:8
 - (2) Love is not giving someone what they deserve but what they need.

- 3) WE ARE TO RECEIVE ONE ANOTHER (ROMANS 15:7)
 - a) Romans 15:7
 - i) In John 13:34, we are to love as He loved.
 - ii) In this passage in Romans, we are to receive as He received.
 - (1) This is one of the most needed commands in the Bible.
 - (2) We are to make people feel loved and welcome when they come into the church.
 - b) In the early New Testament church, the people came from different backgrounds.
 - i) They came from different religious backgrounds.
 - (1) Many had been pagans.
 - ii) They came from different social backgrounds.
 - (1) Many had been divorced.
 - (2) Many had multiple marriages.
 - (3) Some of them were polygamists.
 - (4) Many of them had mixed marriages.
 - (a) Various races had married together.
 - (5) There were Jews, barbarians and Greeks.
 - (6) There were freed slaves.
 - (7) There were rich and poor.
 - (8) There were educated and uneducated.
 - (9) There were young and old.
 - (10) There were mature and babes in Christ.
 - iii) They were all a part of the body of Christ.
 - c) Philemon 1:15-17
 - i) The Apostle Paul told Philemon, the rich man, to receive Onesimus, the runaway slave, as a brother; receive him as if he were an apostle.
 - d) If anyone comes into a church to disrupt or to mock, they obviously cannot be allowed to do so; but anybody who comes to worship God must be received.
 - e) 3 John 1:5, 8-11
 - i) We must receive one another.
 - f) There are those in our churches who may be weak in faith, may not understand theology, and may not know the books of the Bible.
 - i) They should not be made to feel unworthy.
 - ii) They should not be looked down upon.
 - iii) Romans 14:1
 - (1) Don't argue with them.
 - (2) This does not mean that we put a premium upon weak faith.
 - (a) But those who are weak need love and care.
 - iv) The church is a hospital for sinners, not a museum for saints.
 - g) We are to receive one another, but this doesn't mean that we are to receive heretics or willful sinners.

- i) 2 John 1:10
- 4) WE ARE TO GREET ONE ANOTHER (ROMANS 16:16)
- a) Romans 16:16
 - b) 1 Corinthians 16:20
 - c) 2 Corinthians 13:12
 - d) In the Bible, a holy kiss was an embrace.
 - i) The people would kiss one side of the face and then the other side.
 - (1) The men would kiss the men, and the ladies would kiss the ladies.
 - (2) This is still a common practice in some parts of the world.
 - ii) This was a custom in Bible times.
 - (1) Customs change.
 - (a) We're to render custom to whom custom is due.
 - (b) Romans 13:7
 - iii) This means to show acceptance in a very warm and wonderful way.
 - iv) We must demonstrate our love.
 - (1) There must be love and receptivity, and there must be the demonstration of that love and receptivity.
 - e) People need to be loved and greeted, and this greeting needs to be personal, warm and impartial.
 - f) James 2:9
 - i) We need to demonstrate warmth and love to every person who walks into our churches.
 - g) We need a warm fellowship in our churches.
 - i) There are people who will die and be lost for all eternity because we are so self-centered.
 - h) We're to treat one another as members of the same body.
- 5) WE ARE TO SUBMIT TO ONE ANOTHER (EPHESIANS 5:18-21)
- a) Ephesians 5:18
 - i) It's a command to be filled with the Spirit.
 - ii) The Apostle Paul warns in this passage not to be drunk with wine.
 - (1) Wine is the devil's substitute for being filled with the Spirit.
 - (2) He is speaking here not only in contrast but also in comparison.
 - (a) Acts 2:15
 - (i) When they were filled with the Spirit of God, they became free in their spirit.
 - b) Ephesians 5:19-21
 - i) Submission is not merely for wives; it is for Christians.
 - ii) We are to submit ourselves one to another.
 - c) Biblical submission is one equal willingly and lovingly placing himself under another equal so that God may therefore and thereby be glorified.
 - d) In a physical body, the various members at various times have to submit to the other parts of the body.

- i) There is a time when it is right to submit and for somebody to lead.
 - ii) Someone once said that if you show people their rights, you'll have a revolution; but show them their responsibilities, and you'll have a revival.
 - (1) What rights does a dead man have?
 - (a) We are crucified with Christ, and we need to learn how to yield and give to one another and submit to one another.
- 6) WE ARE TO FOREBEAR ONE ANOTHER (EPHESIANS 4:1-4)
- a) Ephesians 4:1-3
 - b) Colossians 3:12-13
 - c) Forbearance is graciously enduring and putting up with the displeasing, offensive or sinful attitudes or actions of other people.
 - i) We all have faults.
 - (1) This does not mean that we can have unconfessed, unrepented of sin in our lives.
 - (2) We should harbor no sin in our hearts or lives.
 - ii) We all have idiosyncrasies that may rub others the wrong way.
 - d) Each of us are different, and we don't all like the same things.
 - i) But we love Jesus, and we love one another.
- 7) WE ARE TO CONFESS TO ONE ANOTHER (JAMES 5:16)
- a) James 5:16
 - i) Don't criticize one another; pray for one another.
 - ii) The confession of a fault is not a call to criticism but a call to prayer.
 - b) The failure to confess to one another holds back revival, forgiveness and healing.
 - i) Real revival is not just getting the roof off, but the walls down.
 - (1) "Getting the roof off" is confessing our sins to God and asking for His forgiveness.
 - ii) When we go to one another, confess our faults to one another, and pray for one another, that's when the real fellowship begins.
 - c) Oftentimes, we don't confess our faults to one another because we are too proud, or we don't trust the other person.
 - i) Be wise.
 - (1) The devil can take anything and take it to an extreme.
 - d) The circle of confession ought to be as big as the circle of need.
 - i) Be very careful to whom you confess personal and private things.
 - ii) If there is someone whom you have wronged, then you need to confess to that person.
 - (1) Private sin, private confession.
 - (2) Personal sin, personal confession.
 - (3) Public sin, public confession.
 - e) We need to begin to pray for one another.
 - i) None of us is perfect.

- ii) If there were less criticism in churches and more prayer, then we would see a mighty healing both physically and spiritually.
- 8) WE ARE TO FORGIVE ONE ANOTHER (EPHESIANS 4:32)
- a) Ephesians 4:32
 - b) An unforgiving spirit has ruined many churches.
 - c) When we fail to forgive or refuse to forgive, we then destroy the bridge over which we ourselves must travel.
 - i) Matthew 6:15
 - d) You cannot forgive someone who has not yet repented.
 - i) Matthew 18:21-22
 - ii) If he has not repented, then you cannot forgive him; but neither can you have an unforgiving spirit.
 - iii) Always forgive someone who repents.
 - iv) If he continues to sin against you, you cannot simply say, "I forgive."
 - (1) Jesus did not forgive like that.
 - (a) God doesn't forgive unless there's repentance.
 - (b) When Christ was on the cross, He did not say to those nailing Him to the cross that He forgave them.
 - (i) He prayed for their forgiveness.
 - v) When someone has sinned against you and you cannot forgive because they have not repented, you put that forgiveness in the bank in escrow.
 - (1) From your heart, tell the Lord that you forgive them and whenever they write a check of repentance, it's already in the bank ready to be drawn.
 - (2) From your viewpoint, you've already forgiven them.
 - (a) From their viewpoint, that forgiveness is not yet received until they repent.
 - (3) This is what God has done when Jesus died on the cross.
 - (a) There is a legacy of forgiveness for every one of us, but it never becomes ours until we claim it by repentance and faith.
 - (b) Yet, in the great, loving heart of God, He died for every one of us.
- 9) CONCLUSION
- a) The church is a body.
 - i) We are the body of Christ.
 - b) When we care for, love, receive, forbear, greet, confess to, and forgive one another, then our churches will become little colonies of Heaven.
 - c) Before you can experience this fellowship, you must first belong to the body of Christ.
 - i) Are you saved?
 - d) Do you know Jesus personally? If not, you can pray to Him today by asking Him to come into your life.

- e) 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.
 - i) Romans 3:23
 - ii) Romans 10:9-10
 - iii) Romans 10:13
 - iv) Acts 16:31
 - v) John 3:16