

Community: The Body of Christ

Monday, 4/26/10 – Read 1 Corinthians 12:12

My Observations: _____

A Question to Answer: When we Christians begin thinking about COMMUNITY, one of the Bible passages we turn to is 1 Corinthians 12. The apostle Paul tussled with the Corinthian church about “community,” and he gave them (and us!) a way for faithful people to think about community. This week, let’s work our way through this chapter and pray that God will deepen our understanding of spiritual community. ... Today’s reading (just one verse) proposes the metaphor Paul wants us to consider: a physical human body is a single organism but it is comprised of many different parts. Pretty obvious, huh? He then says that Christ’s body (the church, the community of faith) is exactly the same -- a single organism composed of various parts. Think about this metaphor. Does it make sense as a description of community? Can you think of community as Christ’s body?

Tuesday, 4/27/10 – Read 1 Corinthians 12:13

My Observations: _____

A Question to Answer: The Spirit of God draws us ALL into this spiritual community. Our normal human distinctions (race, ethnicity, gender, social status) are not reasons for exclusion. Because we are all filled with the same Spirit of God. Do you experience the faith community as a place where we are all included, regardless of the normal human distinctions? What’s one thing you could do to help the church move toward this ideal?

Wednesday, 4/28/10 – Read 1 Corinthians 12:14-16

My Observations: _____

A Question to Answer: Have you ever seen it happen that someone pulls back from community or withdraws from a community because they don’t get their way? Paul’s answer may seem strange. Paul says, “You’re still part of the community!” How does that strike you? ... Do you ever have a sense that our relationships within the church are durable and enduring and cannot easily be broken?

Thursday, 4/29/10 – Read 1 Corinthians 12:17-20

My Observations: _____

A Question to Answer: Once again Paul drives home his point by using an obvious metaphor. For the body to be a body at all, for the body to be fully functional, it has to have many **different** parts. ... Is there anyone in the church who really irritates you? Someone you just have trouble getting along with? Ask yourself this question: Does this person (very different from me) contribute something that makes the whole body functional?

Friday, 4/30/10 – Read 1 Corinthians 12:21-25

My Observations: _____

A Question to Answer: See if you can apply Paul’s principle in today’s reading to your relationships within the church. Is there anyone to whom you’d like to say: “I don’t need you”?

What would you lose if there person were not around? In what way is that person indispensable?

Saturday, 5/1/10 – Read 1 Corinthians 12:26

My Observations: _____

A Question to Answer: Today's verse is really the heart of being community together in Christ. We are related to each other in such a way that the lives of the other people affect us. I hurt when another is going through a painful time in life; I feel elated when another has a victory. ... Now seriously ask yourself this question: Am I willing for the lives of other people to affect me? Am I truly willing to suffer with those who suffer and to celebrate with those who rejoice?

Sunday, 5/2/10 – Read 1 Corinthians 12:27

My Observations: _____

A Question to Answer: Somewhere in this passage Paul seems to have moved from metaphor to the literal. Paul seems to be saying that LITERALLY the community of those who trust Christ become the embodiment of his Presence. We are Christ's body in the world here and now. ... What do you think? How does this strike you? Think about it. Entertain the possibility ... that you along with the others in your church are **literally** the Body of Christ. Write down your response.

My Faith Journal, April 25, 2010

Heart for Community #1

The Whole & The Parts

What do I hear God saying to me today?

What action do I intend to take this week?

Each day this week, take a few minutes. Begin with PRAYER. Then READ through the Bible passage indicated on the inside of this guide. WRITE down your own thoughts, reactions, observations. ANSWER THE QUESTION to begin connecting the Bible with your life. Use additional paper or your own notebook if you need more space to write.