

Community – Part 4

Unity through Service

Review: Division is sign of carnality/immaturity (1 Cor 1:10-13, 3:1-7) vs. Diversity
inability to recognize His body = Pharisee spirit ~ persecute Him (Acts 9:4)

Communion (1 Cor 11:17-34) – Division (vs 18), Self Focus (vs 21)

(1Co 11:29-30) For he who eats and drinks in an unworthy manner eats and drinks judgment to himself, not discerning the Lord's body. For this reason many are weak and sick among you, and many sleep.

Why is recognizing His body such a big deal?

(1Pe 2:4-5) Coming to Him as to a living stone, rejected indeed by men, but chosen by God and precious, you also, as living stones, are being built up a spiritual house, a holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ.

note: not “houses”

(Ge 12:8) And he moved from there to the mountain east of Bethel, and he pitched his tent with Bethel on the west and Ai on the east; there he built an altar to the LORD and called on the name of the LORD.

Bethel: House of God – Ai: heap of rubble, Where do you want to live?

The Key to Biblical Community is Connection

(Col 2:9-10, 19) For in Him dwells all the fullness of the Godhead bodily; and you are complete in Him, who is the head of all principality and power...and not holding fast to the Head, from whom all the body, nourished and knit together by joints and ligaments, grows with the increase that is from God.

(Ep 4:14-16) that we should no longer be children, tossed to and fro and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the trickery of men, in the cunning craftiness of deceitful plotting, but, speaking the truth in love, may grow up in all things into Him who is the head—Christ—from whom the whole body, joined and knit together by what every joint supplies, according to the effective working by which every part does its share, causes growth of the body for the edifying of itself in love.

1. Serving causes Connection (Mt 6:21) – Culture of Heaven

(Ga 5:13) For you, brethren, have been called to liberty; only do not use liberty as an opportunity for the flesh, but through love serve one another.

not about title/position, but humble service (Lk 22:24-27, Mt 23:11-12)

2. speaking the truth in love isn't correction, but prophetic encouragement

purpose of prophecy: call others to who they are (gifts)

because it's through our gifts that we serve one another

(Phlm 6) that the sharing of your faith may become effective by the acknowledgment of every good thing which is in you in Christ Jesus.

(1Co 12:4-7) There are diversities of gifts, but the same Spirit. There are differences of ministries, but the same Lord. And there are diversities of activities,

but it is the same God who works all in all. But the manifestation of the Spirit is given to each one for the profit of all:

(2Co 5:16-17) Therefore, from now on, we regard no one according to the flesh. Even though we have known Christ according to the flesh, yet now we know Him thus no longer. Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new.

Anyone who is in Christ must be regarded as a Living Stone fit for His house.

Discern His body + Acknowledge your Gifts + Serve = Connected Community
where His Fullness can flow

Benjamin Franklin - Constitutional Convention June 28, 1787 Philadelphia, PA

Mr. President:

The small progress we have made after 4 or five weeks close attendance & continual reasonings with each other -- our different sentiments on almost every question, several of the last producing as many noes as ayes, methinks a melancholy proof of the imperfection of the Human Understanding. We indeed seem to **feel** our own want of political wisdom, since we have been running about in search of it. We have gone back to ancient history for models of government, and examined the different forms of those Republics which having been formed with the seeds of their own dissolution now no longer exist. And we have viewed Modern States all round Europe, but find none of their Constitutions suitable to our circumstances. In this situation of this Assembly groping as it were in the dark to find political truth, and scarce able to distinguish it when to us, how has it happened, Sir, that we have not hitherto once thought of humbly applying to the Father of lights to illuminate our understandings? In the beginning of the contest with G. Britain, when we were sensible of danger we had daily prayer in this room for the Divine Protection. -- Our prayers, Sir, were heard, and they were graciously answered. All of us who were engaged in the struggle must have observed frequent instances of a Superintending providence in our favor. To that kind providence we owe this happy opportunity of consulting in peace on the means of establishing our future national felicity. And have we now forgotten that powerful friend? Or do we imagine that we no longer need His assistance.

I have lived, Sir, a long time and the longer I live, the more convincing proofs I see of this truth -- that **God governs in the affairs of men.** And if a sparrow cannot fall to the ground without his notice, is it probable that an empire can rise without his aid? We have been assured, Sir, in the sacred writings that "except the Lord build they labor in vain that build it." I firmly believe this; and I also believe that without his concurring aid we shall succeed in this political building no better than the Builders of Babel: We shall be divided by our little partial local interests; our projects will be confounded, and we ourselves shall become a reproach and a byword down to future age. And what is worse, mankind may hereafter this unfortunate instance, despair of establishing Governments by Human Wisdom, and leave it to chance, war, and conquest. I therefore beg leave to move -- that henceforth prayers imploring the assistance of Heaven, and its blessings on our deliberations, be held in this Assembly every morning before we proceed to business, and that one or more of the Clergy of this City be requested to officiate in that service.