

The Body is One
1 Corinthians 12:12-31

January 26, 2025

INVOCATION: Merciful God, we thank you for calling us together today. We thank you for the health and weather that has permitted us to be present today. We thank you for your great love and care for each of us. Hear our songs as worship to you today. Hear our prayers as we pray to you today. May our worship be pleasing to you. In the name of Christ our Lord, Amen.

WELCOME: Be sure to welcome visitors.

HYMN # 555 Child of the King
HYMN # 384 The Bond of Love

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

MISSIONARY PRAYER CALENDAR

PASTORAL PRAYER:

OFFERTORY HYMN # 387 Blest Be the Tie

SERMON FOCUS: I must recognize my purpose in the Body of Christ.

SERMON FUNCTION: People will seek their purpose within the Body of Christ.

BACKGROUND: Paul is writing to the Church at Corinth to correct some error. They had been assuming that some gifts, because they were more prominently displayed, were more important. They were wrong.

SCRIPTURE READING: 1 Corinthians 12:12-31

INTRODUCTION: The time I broke my femur.

MESSAGE:

1. I HAVE A PURPOSE

- a. God created each member of the body with a purpose.
 - i. We have hands, feet, ears, eyes, etc. all for different purposes.
 - ii. We have a variety of internal organs that we may or may not know the purpose of, but God definitely does.
- b. We all have a general purpose.
 - i. We have the purpose of caring for creation: [Then God said, "Let us make man in our image, according to our likeness. They will rule the fish of the sea, the birds of the sky, the livestock, the whole earth, and the creatures that crawl on the earth."](#) -- Genesis 1:26 (CSB)
 - ii. We have the purpose of worshiping God: [Ascribe to the Lord the glory due his name; worship the Lord in the splendor of his holiness.](#) -- Psalms 29:2 (CSB)
 - iii. We have the purpose of being loved by God. [He predestined us to be adopted as sons through Jesus Christ for himself, according to the good pleasure of his will, to the praise of his glorious grace that he lavished on us in the Beloved One.](#) -- Ephesians 1:5-6 (CSB)
 - iv. We have the purpose of loving God and others. [Jesus answered, "The most important is Listen, Israel! The Lord our God, the Lord is one. Love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind, and with all your strength. The second is, Love your neighbor as yourself. There is no other command greater than these."](#) -- Mark 12:29-31 (CSB)
- c. We all also have a specific purpose
 - i. We are placed in this time and place for a reason. God placed Esther in her position to save the Jews: [Who knows, perhaps you have come to your royal position for such a time as this.](#) -- Esther 4:14 (CSB)
 - ii. God gave Paul a specific mission. [For this is what the Lord has commanded us: I have made you a light for the Gentiles to bring salvation to the ends of the earth.](#) -- Acts 13:47 (CSB)
 - iii. God also gave specific purposes to Abraham, Moses, Elijah, John the Baptist.

- iv. God has also placed you specifically in this time, in this place, for a specific purpose for Him. You must pay attention when He reveals that purpose to you.
- d. Not only do I have a general purpose and a specific purpose, but I must recognize that my purpose is not superior to someone else's.

2. MY PURPOSE IS NOT SUPERIOR TO SOMEONE ELSE'S

- a. I preach and teach. These are things that I like to think I do relatively competently.
- b. This purpose is given to bring glory to God and to call people to Him.
- c. My purpose may be a little more public than yours, but it is in no way superior.
- d. More people see my hands than my feet, but that doesn't make my hands superior to my feet. They have different purposes. My hands are great for reaching things, but they would be terrible to walk on.
- e. Some of you are gifted and called to teach, and that is important in the church.
- f. Some of you are gifted in administration, and that is important in the church.
- g. Some of you are gifted in music, and that is important in the church.
- h. Some of you are gifted in mechanics, maintenance, carpentry, and other skills that I truthfully envy at times. They are important in the church.
- i. Some of you are gifted in food preparation and hospitality, and those are important in the church.
- j. No gift or purpose is more important just because it is more public or more known. If I were suddenly missing my right foot, it would inhibit the function of my whole body.
- k. In the same way that my purpose is not superior to someone else's, someone else's purpose is not superior to mine.

3. SOMEONE ELSE'S PURPOSE IS NOT SUPERIOR TO MINE

- a. I spent years in a church that valued music and production above all else. As someone with no musical ability, it always seemed that what I brought to the church was valued less than what people who stood up and sang offered.
- b. It's easy to get caught, in my position, in the mindset that the pastor of a larger church is superior. Or the one who's getting all the attention on social media.
- c. It's easy to look at what someone else is called to do for the Kingdom, what you're doing, and feel inadequate. This is not what our Lord wants from us.
- d. Just because my foot is not a hand does not mean that it is not doing what God has placed it on me to do.
- e. We are not called to compete with each other or to compare ourselves with each other, but we are meant to complement each other.

4. OUR PURPOSES ARE ALL MEANT TO COMPLEMENT EACH OTHER

- a. All of the parts of the body work together to perform our functions.
- b. My right hand can write, but not without my brain telling it to do so. Also not without the nerves that relay the signal to the hand.

- c. My foot can walk, but it requires the brain, the nerves, the hip, knee, and ankle joints, the femur, tibia, fibula, and a whole lot of muscles to make it happen.
 - d. It is the same way in the body of Christ. We are all given a purpose, and that purpose calls for us to work together within the body to do the work of Christ. Each of us has a purpose for which we were created. Each of us is gifted with abilities, and placed into this church at this time to work together to fulfill the Great Commission.
5. THE GOSPEL IN SIMPLE FORM (adapted from Dr. James Merritt).
- a. Bad News: We are all sinners separated from God.
 - b. Worst News: There is nothing we can do about our sin problem.
 - c. Good News: Christ did for us what we cannot do for ourselves.
 - d. Best News: Salvation and eternal life are a free gift, but you must receive it.

FOUR QUESTIONS:

- 1. What do you hear God saying to you?
- 2. What keeps you from doing that?
- 3. If you were to do that, what might be a good first step?
- 4. Who are you going to tell?

INVITATION HYMN # 342 Rock of Ages