

Sermon Series: The Holy Spirit, My Best Friend

10/6/24 “The Family Grows,” 1Cor. 12:12-26, MEV

INTRODUCTION some have felt it difficult to break through an invisible barrier in our church—why?

Our experiences—Corry vs. city church

MAIN IDEA: Show caring for every member of the church.

Why? Here are four reasons.

I. First, we are all one body (12)

- A. different members with different backgrounds: experiences, social & economic, race, religious past
- B. making up Jesus’ body...Love Him? Must love each one

1John 4:21, MEV: We have this commandment from Him: Whoever loves God must also love his brother.

1. loving one another...agape—a choice
2. **1Cor 13:4-8, NLT: 4** Love is patient and kind.

Love is not jealous or boastful or proud **5** or rude. It does not demand its own way. It is not irritable, and it keeps no record of being wronged. **6** It does not rejoice about injustice but rejoices whenever the truth wins out. **7** Love never gives up, never loses faith, is always hopeful, and endures through every circumstance.

ILLUSTRATION:

II. Second, we have been supernaturally put into His body (13)

EX: outside His body → in His body, part of His body

- A. by the Holy Spirit (baptized into)
 1. explanation... 5 opinions but main two... (Palma) nope
 - a. means B of HS John the Baptist spoke of yes (FB, SH)
 - b. different from one John Baptist spoke of
 2. we didn’t do it ourselves
 3. it’s not a club, something we join
- B. each empowered by same Spirit (all drink of the Spirit)

“This is a new fact and can mean we are watered, imbued, or

saturated with the one Spirit, and can thus refer to an experience of the outpouring of the Spirit like that on the Day of Pentecost.”

—Stanley Horton

ILLUSTRATION:

III. Third, God has placed each of us in His body (18)

place: to set, with design, in a certain arrangement or position

- A. to serve as He wills, gifted as He has determined
- B. to function as one body—as Jesus in our world
- C. giving us unity (1 body & 1 Spirit) & diversity

“Unity does not mean uniformity but interrelatedness [connected to one another] and interdependence [depending on one another]”

—Stanley Horton

1. need to get used to people being different from us
2. need to have relationship with them, not distance ourselves from them

ILLUSTRATION:

IV. Finally, caring helps guard us against divisions (25-26)

- A. Our natural tendency is toward division
 1. withdraw... hurt pride, low self-esteem (15-16)
 2. pushing away others in self-sufficiency (21-22)
 3. defining ourselves & others by gifts
 - comparing value based on giftedness
 - basing belonging on giftedness
- B. caring brings us together (25)

1. recognize that we are connected (26)
2. caring for one another, helps us at the same time

ILLUSTRATION: visiting person in hospital w/ whom a rift

CONCLUSION: what can you do? Even if new; can’t come late, leave early & care for others (or complain you can’t “fit in”)

ALTAR: Repent of focusing on our friends to exclusion of others, rejecting others.... **NEW MEMBERS BROUGHT IN**