



Sermon Notes from 17 February

One Body, One Spirit, One Agape (Romans 12:1-8)

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What is a church? What does it mean to be a member of a church? **A church is not a building but a group of sinners saved by grace and united by the spirit of God.** *The Church is the Dearest place on earth* – Charles Spurgeon

The Church Of Jesus Christ Is United:

1) As One Body In Christ (Rom 12:4-5)

3 Attributes

#1 *We are one body with many members*
Paul uses the term 'body' as an analogy that is a far more inter-woven and inter-dependent description of how we are related to each other. Every member in the body needs to be integrated and dependent on one another to make the organism (the body) thrive. The body is only healthy when all the members fit together in one unit. **It is God's design for you to do life together with other members in the body of Christ.**

#2 *Members do not all have the same function*

When you let differences become an obstacle between you and others, you start to despise and look down on other people. Our sinful nature gives us a sharp eye for even the smallest differences to take pride in. Paul calls us to think otherwise (Rom 12:3). Diversity is essential to the health of a body. **The body needs what God has divinely appointed in you to function well.**

#3 *We are one body in Christ*

Without Christ, there is no church. It is in Christ that we can have a future together for eternity (Rom 8:16). As Christians, we have the same Father in heaven, and that makes us family.

What if doing life together like this results in conflicts? Isn't it better to keep a distance to avoid conflicts?

"Conflict is inevitable. If you live with other sinners, you will have conflict. The closer you are to someone, the more potential there is for conflict. Conflict with others is one of God's mysterious, counterintuitive way of rescuing us from ourselves."
– Timothy Lane & Paul Tripp.

Don't short-change yourself by isolating yourself. Be a part of the body in Christ so that God can do His good work in your life through other people.

2) For One Another (Rom 12:5)

We do not belong to ourselves exclusively. We belong to God and one another in the body of Christ (the church). The body can only be healthy if all of us are not withholding something from the body. How much we give determines how strong or weak the body grows.

1 Cor 12:26 – Your suffering and joy belongs to the body as well. In your suffering, share your burden so that someone can carry it. In your honour, celebrate together with the body so that everyone can rejoice. Because we belong to one another, we are accountable, responsible and committed to one another in Christ.

3) With Many Gifts (Rom 12:6-8)

God did not put us together empty-handed but has given every Christian at least one gift for the good of the body.

2 Types of Gifts

#1 Gift of speaking – Teaching, exhortation and encouragement.

#2 Gift of serving – Serving, contributing, leading and doing acts of mercy.

Whatever gifts you have been given, **use them** to serve the church and one another.

God has called us to be a church that is actively connected to the body, that values the differences among us and that gives ourselves generously because we belong to one another. **While the world tells us to go and get what we can, God's design is about giving.**

Jesus, the head of the church, gave Himself completely to the point of death on the cross, so that we could be one body, through one spirit, for the unity of one church.