

SERMON NOTES

3rd Sunday after the Epiphany, Year C * January 23, 2022

Sermon by the Reverend Tom Rutherford

Nehemiah 8:1-3, 5-6, 8-10 * Psalm 19 * 1 Corinthians 12:12-31a *

Luke 4:14-21

The Body of Christ

1 Corinthians 12:13: Just as a body, though one, has many parts, but all its many parts form one body, so it is with Christ. For we were all baptized by one Spirit so as to form one body—whether Jews or Gentiles, slave or free—and we were all given the one Spirit to drink.

✦ NOT a random G _____ or C _____, but a B _____.

Vs 14: Even so the body is not made up of one part but of many.

Vs 15-17: Now if the foot should say, “Because I am not a hand, I do not belong to the body,” it would not for that reason stop being part of the body. And if the ear should say, “Because I am not an eye, I do not belong to the body,” it would not for that reason stop being part of the body. If the whole body were an eye, where would the sense of hearing be? If the whole body were an ear, where would the sense of smell be?

Vs 18: But in fact, God has placed the parts in the body, every one of them, just as he wanted them to be.

✦ God gave you your M ___ of skills, talents, and abilities.

Vs 19-20: If they were all one part, where would the body be? As it is, there are many parts, but one body.

✦ It takes EVERY part to make a B _____.

✦ It takes every part D _____ its part to make a H _____ Body.

✦ When parts don't do their part, that D _____ the Body.

✦ Parts that take, but don't give are F _____... or C _____.

Vs 21: The eye cannot say to the hand, “I don't need you!” And the head cannot say to the feet, “I don't need you!”

Vs 22-25: On the contrary, those parts of the body that seem to be weaker are indispensable, and the parts that we think are less honorable we treat with special honor. And the parts that are unpresentable are treated with special modesty, while our presentable parts need no special treatment. But God has put the body together, giving greater honor to the parts that lacked it, so that there should be no division in the body, but that its parts should have equal concern for each other.

Vs 26: If one part suffers, every part suffers with it; if one part is honored, every part rejoices with it.

Vs 27: Now you are the body of Christ, and each one of you is a part of it.

Next Week's Lessons

Jeremiah 1:4-10 * Psalm 71:1-18 * 1 Corinthians 13:1-13 *

Luke 4:21-30

Chewing on Our Daily Bread

Questions for conversation with your family, Home Group, or a friend

1. What's a part of your body you like? Why? What's a part of your body you don't like? Why?
2. What's an ability God's given you? And what part would that make you in the Body of Christ (the Messiah family)?
3. How do you use that ability to help the Messiah family be healthy? If you don't currently use that ability in the Messiah family, how could you use it? And when could you start?
4. PRAY: Thanking God for the abilities he's given you.
 - For opportunities to use those abilities to serve.
 - For any needs in your group.

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