

What Brings Us Together?

Today's sermon will discuss 4 Truths:

1. Our Fellowship is in Christ
2. Our Identity is in Christ
3. Together – We are the Body of Christ
4. Every Joint Supplies

Our Fellowship is (Together) in Christ

1 John 1:1-4 (NASB) True communion/True Fellowship through Christ

What was from the beginning, what we have heard, what we have seen with our eyes, what we have looked at and touched with our hands, concerning the Word of Life— ² and the life was revealed, and we have seen and testify and proclaim to you the eternal life, which was with the Father and was revealed to us— ³ what we have seen and heard we proclaim to you also, so that you too may have fellowship with us; and indeed our fellowship is with the Father, and with His Son Jesus Christ. ⁴ These things we write, so that our joy may be made complete.

1 John 1:3 (MSG) ³⁻⁴ *We saw it, we heard it, and now we're telling you so you can experience it along with us, this experience of communion with the Father and his Son, Jesus Christ. Our motive for writing is simply this: We want you to enjoy this, too. Your joy will double our joy!*

Our Identity is in Christ

John 4:1-28 (NASB) *And He had to pass through Samaria. ⁵ So He came to a city of Samaria called Sychar, near the parcel of land that Jacob gave to his son Joseph; ⁶ and Jacob's well was there. So Jesus, tired from His journey, was just sitting by the well. It was about the sixth hour. ⁷ A woman of Samaria came to draw water. Jesus said to her, "Give Me a drink." ⁸ For His disciples had gone away to the city to buy food. ⁹ So the Samaritan woman said to Him, "How is it that You, though You are a Jew, are asking me for a drink, though I am a Samaritan woman?" (For Jews do not associate with Samaritans.) ¹⁰ Jesus replied to her, "If you knew the gift of God, and who it is who is saying to you, 'Give Me a drink,' you would have asked Him, and He would have given you living water." ¹¹ She said to Him, "Sir, You have no bucket and the well is deep; where then do You get this living water? ¹² You are not greater than our father Jacob, are You, who gave us the well and drank of it himself, and his sons and his cattle?" ¹³ Jesus answered and said to her, "Everyone who drinks of this water will be thirsty again; ¹⁴ but whoever drinks of the water that I will give him shall never be thirsty; but the water that I will give him will become in him a fountain of water springing up to eternal life." ¹⁵ The woman said to Him, "Sir, give me this water so that I will not be thirsty, nor come all the way here to draw water." ¹⁶ He said to her, "Go, call your husband and come here." ¹⁷ The woman answered and said to Him, "I have no husband." Jesus said to her, "You have correctly said, 'I have no husband'; ¹⁸ for you have had five husbands, and the one whom you now have is not your husband; this which you have said is true." ¹⁹ The woman said to Him, "Sir, I perceive that You are a prophet. ²⁰ Our fathers worshiped on this mountain, and yet you Jews say that in Jerusalem is the place where one must worship." ²¹ Jesus *said to her, "Believe Me, woman, that a time is coming when you will worship the Father neither on this mountain nor in Jerusalem. ²² You Samaritans worship what you do not know; we worship what we do know, because salvation is from the Jews. ²³ But a time is coming, and even now has arrived, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth; for such people the Father seeks to be His worshipers. ²⁴ God is spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth." ²⁵ The woman said to Him, "I know that Messiah is coming (He who is called Christ); when that One comes, He will declare all things to us." ²⁶ Jesus said to her, "I am He, the One speaking to you." ²⁷ And at this point His disciples came, and they were amazed that He had been speaking with a woman, yet no one said, "What are You seeking?" or, "Why are You speaking with her?" ²⁸ So the woman left her waterpot and went into the city, and *said to the people, ²⁹ "Come, see a man who told me all the things that I have done; this is not the [k]Christ, is He?" ³⁰ They left the city and were coming to Him.*

Gal 3:28-29 (NASB) *There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, there is [ak]neither male nor female; for you are all one in Christ Jesus. ²⁹ And if you [a]belong to Christ, then you are Abraham's descendants, heirs according to promise.*

Together - We are the Body of Christ

1 Cor 12:12 – 27 (NASB) *For just as the body is one and yet has many parts, and all the parts of the body, though they are many, are one body, so also is Christ. ¹³ For by one Spirit we were all baptized into one body, whether Jews or Greeks, whether slaves or free, and we were all made to drink of one Spirit. ¹⁴ For the body is not one part, but many. ¹⁵ If the foot says, "Because I am not a hand, I am not a part of the body," it is not for this reason any less a part of the body. ¹⁶ And if the ear says, "Because I am not an eye, I am not a part of the body," it is not for this reason any less a part of the body. ¹⁷ If the whole body were an eye, where would the hearing be? If the whole body were hearing, where would the sense of smell be? ¹⁸ But now God has arranged the parts, each one of them in the body, just as He desired. ¹⁹ If they were all one part, where would the body be? ²⁰ But now there are many parts, but one body. ²¹ And the eye cannot say to the hand, "I have no need of you"; or again, the head to the feet, "I have no need of you." ²² On the contrary, it is much truer that the parts of the body which seem to be weaker are necessary; ²³ and those parts of the body which we consider less honorable, on these we bestow greater honor, and our less presentable parts become much more presentable, ²⁴ whereas our more presentable parts have no need of it. But God has so composed the body, giving more abundant honor to that part which lacked, ²⁵ so that there may be no division in the body, but that the parts may have the same care for one another. ²⁶ And if one part of the body suffers, all the parts suffer with it; if a part is honored, all the parts rejoice with it. ²⁷ Now you are Christ's body, and individually parts of it.*

Every part needs to receive instruction from the head. Every part is needed in Christ and Christ is needed in every part!

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4. Every Joint Supplies

Ephesians 4:16 (NIV) *From Him the whole body, fitted and held together by every supporting ligament, grows and builds itself up in love through the work of each individual part.*

Definition and Function:

Definition: a short band of tough, flexible fibrous connective tissue which connects two bones or cartilages or holds together a joint; a membranous fold that supports an organ and keeps it in position; archaic; a thing which unites people or things; a bond

Function: Ligaments are tough fibrous bands of connective tissue that serve to: Support the internal organs; Hold bones together in proper articulation at the joints; Connect bones to other bones at joints

Provide stability and support while allowing for necessary movement

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Testimony of Intercession at 18 years old

Because every joint supplies – God has placed grace, faith, and his anointing in youth, young adults, seasoned saints and it is cross generational, not based on gender, not based on ethnic background or anything else – It's based on Him!

Be empowered to hear and obey God because our fellowship together is vital to the function of the body.