

Introduction To Single Christians Sunday AM 07/10/22

I) The Church is a Body

Romans 12:3 *For I say, through the grace given to me, to everyone who is among you, not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think, but to think soberly, as God has dealt to each one a measure of faith. 4 For as we have many members in one body, but all the members do not have the same function, 5 so we, being many, are one body in Christ, and individually members of one another. 6 Having then gifts differing according to the grace that is given to us, let us use them: if prophecy, let us prophesy in proportion to our faith; 7 or ministry, let us use it in our ministering; he who teaches, in teaching; 8 he who exhorts, in exhortation; he who gives, with liberality; he who leads, with diligence; he who shows mercy, with cheerfulness.*

A similar passage is found in **1 Corinthians 12.12-27**- - major points made in both passages.

A) Major points

1. The body of Christ is made up of many members, each member is different.
2. Each member has a place, a purpose in the body.
3. Goal is for the spiritual and perhaps numerical growth of the body.
4. This requires the members to suffer together and rejoice together.

1 Corinthians 12:12 *For as the body is one and has many members, but all the members of that one body, being 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 have all been made to drink into one Spirit. 14 For in fact the body is not one member but many. 15 If the foot should say, "Because I am not a hand, I am not of the body," is it therefore not of the*

body? **16** And if the ear should say, "Because I am not an eye, I am not of the body," is it therefore not of the body? **17** If the whole body were an eye, where would be the hearing? If the whole were hearing, where would be the smelling? **18** But now God has set the members, each one of them, in the body just as He pleased. **19** And if they were all one member, where would the body be? **20** But now indeed there are many members, yet one body. **21** And the eye cannot say to the hand, "I have no need of you"; nor again the head to the feet, "I have no need of you." **22** No, much rather, those members of the body which seem to be weaker are necessary. **23** And those members of the body which we think to be less honorable, on these we bestow greater honor; and our unpresentable parts have greater modesty, **24** but our presentable parts have no need. But God composed the body, having given greater honor to that part which lacks it, **25** that there should be no schism in the body, but that the members should have the same care for one another. **26** And if one member suffers, all the members suffer with it; or if one member is honored, all the members rejoice with it. **27** Now you are the body of Christ, and members individually.

B) At Corinth

1. The diversity of gifts (spiritual gifts) was causing problems.
2. They were stressing the teacher instead of Christ.

1 Corinthians 1:11 For it has been declared to me concerning you, my brethren, by those of Chloe's household, that there are contentions among you. **12** Now I say this, that each of you says, "I am of Paul," or "I am of Apollos," or "I am of Cephas," or "I am of Christ." **13** Is Christ divided? Was Paul crucified for you? Or were you baptized in the name of Paul? **14** I thank God that I baptized none of you except Crispus and Gaius, **15** lest anyone should say that I had baptized in my own name. **16** Yes, I also baptized the household of Stephanas. Besides, I do not know whether I baptized any other. **17** For Christ did not send me to baptize, but to preach the gospel, not with wisdom of words, lest the cross of Christ should be made of no effect.

3. They were being carnally minded instead of spiritually minded.

1 Corinthians 3:1 *And I, brethren, could not speak to you as to spiritual people but as to carnal, as to babes in Christ. 2 I fed you with milk and not with solid food; for until now you were not able to receive it, and even now you are still not able; 3 for you are still carnal. For where there are envy, strife, and divisions among you, are you not carnal and behaving like mere men? 4 For when one says, "I am of Paul," and another, "I am of Apollos," are you not carnal?*

4. There was a diversity of gifts but one Lord and Master.

II) Background for This Series

A) Personal background

1. I was thirty years old before getting married. So, I have some personal experience in this area.
2. Our oldest daughter is in her thirties and not married. I recognize some of the trials she faces from my own personal experiences.

B) Comments on FB got my attention

1. Some felt left out at the congregation they were attending. Classes on "Marriage" "Having a Happy Home", "Child Rearing" etc. But nothing about living as a single Christian.
2. Congregations often place an emphasis on young people and young families. After all, they are the future on the church, but what about the now of the church. Those who are serving and attending now?
3. Some said they felt isolated socially as couples often do things with couples.
4. They felt marginalized.

III) Facts

A) Percentage of people who are "single"

1. Adult population who are single 52%

2. The singles population is larger than the total national population of all but 11 nations.
3. America has upwards to 82 million single adults.
4. 4 out of 5 single adults consider themselves to be Christian.
5. Meaning, many of those people we are trying to reach with the Gospel are singles.

B) Consider this:

1. Everybody is single at birth
2. Some come into the body of Christ as a single- Paul.
3. Some come into the body of Christ already married.
4. Some will face divorce
 - a. Those unfaithful, the put away.

Matthew 19:9 "And I say to you, whoever divorces his wife, except for sexual immorality, and marries another, commits adultery; and whoever marries her who is divorced commits adultery." 10 His disciples said to Him, "If such is the case of the man with his wife, it is better not to marry." 11 But He said to them, "All cannot accept this saying, but only those to whom it has been given:

- b. The faithful spouse
- c. Some will remain unmarried the rest of their lives.
- d. Some will remarry.

1 Corinthians 7:39 A wife is bound by law as long as her husband lives; but if her husband dies, she is at liberty to be married to whom she wishes, only in the Lord.

5. Some will lose their spouse due to death.
 - a. Those who are young,

1 Timothy 5:11 But refuse the younger widows; for when they have begun to

grow wanton against Christ, they desire to marry,

b. Some will remain single.

C) Different categories and relationships in the church

1. Young singles and old singles. Being single at 10 is different than being single at 20 or 30 or 60.
2. Young couples without children and older couples without children (empty nesters)
3. Young couples with children and older couples with children.
4. Each faces their own challenges but each can help each other for the growth of the body.

D) Those who are single

1. Never asked or were turned down.
2. The right one never came along (not yet)
3. Due to health issues – long term illness, cancer victims, etc
4. Mental issues – cases of abuse
5. Economic reason – can't afford to get married
6. Family reasons

1 Corinthians 7:36 *If, however, a father thinks that he is not acting fairly by his unmarried daughter, when she is past her youth, and if under these circumstances her marriage ought to take place, let him act as he thinks right. He is doing nothing wrong-let the marriage take place. 37* ***On the other hand, a father, who has definitely made up his mind, and is under no compulsion, but is free to carry out his own wishes, and who has come to the decision, in his own mind, to keep his unmarried daughter at home will be doing right.***

7. Don't want to get married

a. Some are married to their work, education, some other

reason.

1 Corinthians 7:34 *There is a difference between a wife and a virgin. The unmarried woman cares about the things of the Lord, that she may be holy both in body and in spirit. But she who is married cares about the things of the world--how she may please her husband.*

- b. Some are dedicated to serving God and sees marriage as a hindrance.

Conclusion:

1 Corinthians 7:24 *Brethren, let each one remain with God in that state in which he was called. What ever scriptural state you are in, use it to serve the Lord.*

The church is the Bride of Christ, in that sense all Christians are wedded to Him.

Ephesians 5:25 *Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ also loved the church and gave Himself for her, 26 that He might sanctify and cleanse her with the washing of water by the word, 27 that He might present her to Himself a glorious church, not having spot or wrinkle or any such thing, but that she should be holy and without blemish.*