

PAUL'S FIRST EPISTLE TO THE CORINTHIANS

LEARNING HOW TO BE A HEAVENLY CHURCH IN A GODLESS WORLD

1 CORINTHIANS CHAPTER 12:14-31

MEDIA REFERENCE NUMBER SMX754

OCTOBER 16, 2011

THE TITLE OF THE MESSAGE:

A WORKING CHURCH IS A LIVING CHURCH

WHAT MAKES YOU A TRUE BELIEVER

SUBJECT TOPICALLY REFERENCED UNDER:

Development, Church, Gifts, Unity, Growth

You May Have Heard This Question Before:

*“What Kind of a Church Would the Church be if Everyone
in it was Just Like You?”*

That is a great and soul-searching question. It causes us to stop and ask ourselves – ‘how has believing in Jesus Christ caused my life to matter?’

For anything to exist and be meaningful in life,
there must first be a concept, purpose & design.

Evolutionists will argue:

“If you have enough energy that you can apply to enough physical matter that is then allowed enough time – you will eventually get life out of that combination.”

That argument is not only flawed, it's insufficient and intellectually-scientifically dishonest. It's not until you insert concept, purpose, design, that things can begin to take shape & happen in a meaningful reality.

There must be a concept, purpose, design.

And the Same is True with God's Church. It must have a design that holds it together and carries it along toward the development of the church.

2 Corinthians 3:18

But we all, with unveiled face, beholding as in a mirror the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from glory to glory, just as by the Spirit of the Lord.

1 Corinthians 12:14-17

: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 (*us*), 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. **:28** And God has **appointed** these in the church: first **apostles**, second **prophets**, third **teachers**, after that **miracles**, then **gifts of healings, helps, administrations, varieties of tongues**. **:29** Are all apostles? Are all prophets? Are all teachers? Are all workers of miracles? **:30** Do all have gifts of healings? Do all speak with tongues? Do all interpret? **:31** But earnestly desire **the best gifts**. And yet I show you **a more excellent way**.

A WORKING CHURCH IS A LIVING CHURCH

WHAT MAKES US A RELEVANT CHURCH !

1.) You and I share a God-designed feature

v.14-17

1a.) Designed feature #1 - serving one another

:14 For **in fact** the body is not one member (*body part*) 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?

The Mister Potato Head Picture

It's an irresistible temptation that we've all had

to deal with. It's taking your mister potatohead doll and sticking his ears where his eyes should be and putting his nose where his mouth should be.

Imagine with me – that our feet decided to go on strike and walk out,

Just how far would our feet get?

(just to the doors of the sanctuary – our feet are not hands)

A church that's all feet runs around a lot but never gets anything lasting done because it's no longer Jesus-focused – it's all about feet.

A **Lone Ranger** body part running independently is rogue.

Stop coveting another part's position or place.

We've come to adopt a wrong view of the church because of our "Showcase" Sundays – This is Mid-Life Refueling!

Be Careful of Making a False Assumption

About what going to church means.

Revelation 2:4-5

Nevertheless I have this against **you**, (*Ephesus*) that **you have left your first love**. :5 Remember therefore from **where** you have fallen; **repent** and do the **first works**, or else I will come to you quickly and remove your lampstand from its place—unless you repent.

John 13:14-15

If I then, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another's feet. :15 For I have given you an example, that you should do as I have done to you.

WE SHARE A GOD DESIGNED FEATURE

1b.) Designed feature #2 - caring for one another

: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?

What if the ear decided to leave because it's not as beautiful as the eye? The body would not be able to hear the cries and the hurt of the others.

My brain cannot feed me. But my brain working together with my central nervous system and the musculoskeletal structure can manipulate my hand and arm and get food to my mouth - then a whole new set of design features take it from there.

WE SHARE A GOD DESIGNED FEATURE

1c.) Designed feature #3 - loving on one another

:17 If the whole body were an **eye**, where would be the **hearing**?
If the whole were **hearing**, where would be the **smelling**?

What if all the eyes got together and said (*ooppss*)
The eyes can't say anything because they don't have a mouth to communicate with.

John 13:34

A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another;
as I have loved you, that you also love one another.

We live at a time when feelings and emotions have been elevated with disastrous results. When people get their feelings hurt – they often pick up and pack up and walk out like babies in a sandbox.

Loving one another is costly, hard, challenging, trying.
Because real love doesn't ask for anything in return.

If the body-part leaves, the entire body will suffer for a season, but that body-part that has left will soon die because it is cut off from the life support of the church.

Hebrews 10:23-25

Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for He who promised is faithful. **:24** And let us consider one another in order to stir up love and good works, **:25** not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as is the manner of some, but exhorting one another, and so much the more as you see the Day approaching.

A WORKING CHURCH IS A LIVING CHURCH

WHAT MAKES US A RELEVANT CHURCH !

2.) You and I share a God ordained value

v.18-27

2a.) Our #1 ordained value is - assignment

: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 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."

God has **set** the members

(You have been assigned a special place – an ordained spot in the body)



set grk: *ti-qhmi tithemi, tith'-ay-mee*, to put in place. To kneel down and set, to lay the stone, to ordain the place or thing to a specific purpose. Display or use. The union between architect and builder.

No Spastic Seizures Here Please

:21 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."

1 Corinthians 3:10-11

According to the grace of God which was given to me, as a wise master builder I have laid the foundation, and another builds on it. But let each one take heed how he builds on it. :11 For no other foundation can anyone lay than that which is laid, which is Jesus Christ.

2 Timothy 1:5-6

when I call to remembrance the genuine faith that is in you, which dwelt first in your grandmother Lois and your mother Eunice, and I am persuaded is in you also. :6 Therefore I remind you to stir up the gift of God which is in you through the laying on of my hands.

Attention Please Church

I am building up to a Sunday where we will pause for power.
We will take time to discover what your gift is.
We will pray and step out.

WE SHARE A GOD ORDAINED VALUE

2b.) Our #2 ordained value is - usefulness

: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 unpreventable *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,**

The Corinthian Church was Crazy & Blessed

1 Corinthians 1:7-9

Therefore you do not lack any spiritual gift as you eagerly wait for our Lord Jesus Christ to be revealed. :8 He will keep you strong to the end, so that you will be blameless on the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. :9 God, who has called you into fellowship with his Son Jesus Christ our Lord, is faithful.

The Corinthian church was very blessed in that it had so many of the gifts in operation. Here Paul exhorts them to keep it up until Jesus returns for the church.

No two churches are alike and never will be.

The LORD has created each and every local church to be of a certain function for the advancement of all. One church will have a greater emphasis on mission, another church less. One church will be more evangelistic, another church more on teaching and discipline. Just as each Christian is part of the unified-diversity of a church, so every church is a unified-diversity in the world – all for the glory of God and the advancement of the Kingdom of God.

2 Timothy 2:20-21

But in a great house there are not only vessels of gold and silver, but also of wood and clay, some for honor and some for dishonor. :21 Therefore if anyone cleanses himself from the latter, he will be a vessel for honor, sanctified and useful for the Master, prepared for every good work.

Listen Christian and non-Christian alike to this: the Almighty God ordained you to live life – is the life you're living reflecting that truth in your life?

< 'Jack, my life stinks' - then it's not the life that He has for you to live >

2c.) Our #3 ordained value is - relationship

: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.

The universe is happening right now - because it is dependent upon one molecule relating to another.

The human body happens when one cell acts in harmony with another,
Just as it was designed to do.

There is a relationship between frequencies of light as there are with colors. It's amazing to me that mixing **yellow** and **blue** does not create a different shade of **yellow** and **blue** – the result of unity is a totally different color - green

Paul's Great Prayer for the Christians @ Colossi

Colossians 1:9-14

For this reason we also, since the day we heard it, do not cease to pray for you, **and to ask that** you may be filled with the knowledge of His will in all wisdom and spiritual understanding; :10 that you may walk worthy of the Lord, fully pleasing *Him*, being fruitful in every good work and increasing in the knowledge of God; :11 strengthened with all might, according to His glorious power, for all patience and longsuffering with joy; :12 giving thanks to the Father who has qualified us to be partakers of the inheritance of the saints in the light. :13 He has delivered us from the power of darkness and conveyed *us* into the kingdom of the Son of His love, :14 in whom we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins.

A WORKING CHURCH IS A LIVING CHURCH

WHAT MAKES US A RELEVANT CHURCH !

3.) You and I share a God appointed function

v.28-31

3a.) We've been appointed to the right job

:28 And God has **appointed** these in the church: first **apostles**, second **prophets**, third **teachers**, after that **miracles**, then **gifts of healings, helps, administrations, varieties of tongues**.

Golfers are not team players / football players must be.



Apostles ajpo/stoloß apostolos, *ap-os'-tol-os*; an ambassador. A commissioner of Christ with miraculous powers. A messenger, he that is sent.



prophets profh/thß prophetes, *prof-ay'-tace*; a foreteller ("prophet"); an anointed speaker.



teachers didaǰskalöß didaskalos, *did-as'-kal-os*; an instructor. A doctor, journeyman, master, teacher.



helps ajnti÷lhyiß antilepsis, *an-til'-ape-sis*; relief, comfort, completion. Making things happen for the better of all.



administrations kube÷rnhsiß kubernesis, *koo-ber'-nay-sis*; a pilot, a governmental leader. An orchestrator..

Attention Please Church

I am building up to a Sunday where we will pause for power.
We will take time to discover what your gift is.
We will pray and step out.

WE SHARE A GOD APPOINTED FUNCTION

3b.) We've been appointed with the best stuff

:29 Are all apostles? Are all prophets? Are all teachers? Are all workers of miracles?
:30 Do all have gifts of healings? Do all speak with tongues?
Do all interpret?

The Great Construction Demands an Absolute Negative = No

3c.) We've been appointed for the greatest purpose

:13 But earnestly desire **the best** (*greater*) **gifts**.
And yet I show you **a more excellent way**.

Not all the gifts have the same impact or effect on the church. We are to pray for the LORD to appoint to each of us the best gift for our particular calling – thy will be done regarding me and whatever gift you want me to use.

Attention Please Church

I am building up to a Sunday where we will pause for power.
We will take time to discover what your gift is.
We will pray and step out.

Will You Agree with God That

Rom. 3:23 you have sinned and fallen short of the glory of God, Rom. 6:23a That you understand that the wages of sin *is* death, Rom. 6:23b but the gift of God *is* eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord. Rom. 5:8 Believing today that God demonstrates His own love toward you, in that while you were still a sinner, Christ died for you. Rom. 10:13 But He now says to you that *“if you would call on the name of the LORD you shall be saved.”* Rom. 10:9-10 that if you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved. :10 For with the heart one believes unto righteousness, and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.

Can You Say Today That You Personally Know
Jesus Christ as Lord and His Salvation?

_____ *End of Study* _____

© By Jack D. Hibbs, October 16, 2011