UNITED IN CHRIST

Verses 1 Cor 12:12-13

1. Intro
   1. This is an important study for our church
   2. **I come to this series for many reasons:**
      1. **We MUST remain focused on the mission before us**
      2. **We MUST serve in our respective roles in that mission**
      3. **We MUST continue to move forward in the cause of Christ.**
   3. **HOLD THE ROPE**
   4. We all have a place of service in this church, and the effectiveness of our fellowship and ministry is going to be either blessed or hindered by the response of the people.
   5. **We are SAVED to SERVE, and I hope as we go through this study, you will find yourself challenged and encouraged.**
   6. So as we begin, ask yourself some questions:
      1. If everyone served like I do, how healthy would the church be?
      2. If everyone gave like I do, how healthy would our church be?
      3. If everyone prayed like I do, how healthy would our church be?
      4. If everyone trusted Jesus like I do, how healthy would our church be?
   7. **A healthy church is one that:**
      1. **Makes the gospel its mission**
      2. **Worships the savior**
      3. **Enjoys sweet fellowship**
      4. **Studies the Word**
      5. **Sacrifices willingly for a larger purpose than one person can accomplish alone.**
      6. **Prays earnestly**
   8. WE ARE INTENDED TO SERVE TOGETHER
   9. Don’t assume you are done being shaped into the image of Christ.
   10. GOD IS NOT FINISHED WITH YOU YET!
2. Text
   1. Verse 12:
      1. Different tasks, one body
      2. Legs can do a lot of things, but they cannot see
      3. The construction of the body implies unity:
         1. If my big toe hurts, I’m impaired all over
         2. If I don’t feed my body properly, I do not function as I should
      4. **Important words:**
         1. **ONE: used 5 times in these two verses, we are 1!**
         2. **BODY: a grouping of dependent parts**
         3. **MANY: plurality, implies the concept of togetherness, speaks against being the ‘lone ranger’**
         4. **MEMBERS: Membership is important, it teaches responsibility**
            1. **Body of Christ membership: responsibility to the cause of Christ, and to serve as called and gifted**
            2. **Church membership: a calling God places on individuals to serve alongside others who have been positioned strategically to serve together**
         5. **CHRIST: The Point…our savior, our mission, our power**
   2. Verse 13
      1. **Important Words:**
         1. **SPIRIT: Given to us as a helper and a comforter**
         2. **Baptized: Baptizo: Immersion**
         3. **ALL: that means we are all in this together!**
         4. **MADE: We were created to be in this relationship…together**
         5. **DRINK: the drink is a symbol of unity as well, in the Lord’s supper we have cups that were drank together:**
            1. **Cup of Sanctification**
            2. **Cup of Plagues**
            3. **Cup of Redemption**
            4. **Cup of Praise**
      2. Paul writes about ALL PEOPLE being a part of the body
      3. **We have different and significant roles, but one body.**
         1. **Each gift is necessary**
         2. **Each gift is intentional**
         3. **Each gift requires submission to our Lord**
3. Points
   1. **The Body of Christ**
      1. Many members, one body
      2. We are all connected to one another, and the effectiveness of the church is dependent upon obedience from each member.
      3. **Lock arms in unity and take on hell with a water pistol if necessary.**
      4. **The Body of Christ is strongest when we:**
         1. Give our very best to the Lord
         2. Look to the needs of others above our own
         3. Refuse to quit, refuse to compromise our convictions, and refuse to fail to show love to all people.
   2. **The Unity of Christ**
      1. United in Baptism
      2. One Spirit, One Baptism
      3. The Unity of the Spirit is a stark contrast with the conflict found in the world.
      4. **WE have to BE different from the world!**
         1. **When the world strives for individualism, we strive for unity**
         2. **When the world strives to elevate SELF, we elevate CHRIST**
         3. **When the world relies on the wisdom of MEN, we rest in the wisdom of GOD.**
      5. Think about this concept: UNITY WITH GOD
         1. This sets Christianity apart
         2. **We are not at odds with our God…believers ARE:**
            1. **created in Christ (Eph. 2:10),**
            2. **crucified with him (Gal. 2:20),**
            3. **buried with him (Col. 2:12),**
            4. **baptized into Christ and his death (Rom. 6:3),**
            5. **united with him in his resurrection (Rom. 6:5),**
            6. **and seated with him in the heavenly places (Eph. 2:6);**
            7. **Christ is formed in believers (Gal. 4:19)**
            8. **and dwells in our hearts (Eph. 3:17);**
            9. **the church is the body of Christ (1 Cor. 6:15; 12:27);**
            10. **Christ is in us (2 Cor. 13:5)**
            11. **and we are in him (1 Cor. 1:30);**
            12. **the church is one flesh with Christ (Eph. 5:31–32);**
            13. **believers gain Christ and are found in him (Phil. 3:8–9).**
            14. **in Christ we are justified (Rom. 8:1),**
            15. **glorified (8:30),**
            16. **sanctified (1 Cor. 1:2),**
            17. **called (1:9);**
            18. **made alive (Eph. 2:5),**
            19. **created anew (2 Cor. 5:17),**
            20. **adopted (Gal. 3:26),**
            21. **and elected (Eph. 1:4–5)**
   3. **The Participation WITH Christ**
      1. Two symbolic ceremonies for us to have a visual aid in seeing this relationship:
      2. **Baptism: symbol of the full immersion we have in Christ.**
      3. **The Lord’s Supper:** 
         1. This supper is called:
            1. Communion
            2. Eucharist
            3. Last Supper
            4. Lord’s Supper
         2. Dates back to:
            1. Melchizedek and Abraham
            2. The Passover
            3. The fulfillment of the Passover as Christ led His disciples to understand the Passover meal.
      4. Our ministry is marked by:
         1. A supernatural relationship with others
         2. A supernatural relationship with Christ
4. Close: The Lord’s Supper

Hold the rope…if we have 10 hands on the rope, one lets go, it doesn’t fail, its harder, but it still works.