
Sermon Notes

March 17, 2019

First Congregational Church of Pomfret

Building Up the Body in Worship 1 Corinthians 14:26

Working Out

- ❖ Importance of exercise for building up and strengthening our bodies
- ❖ The church is the living body of Christ
 - Jesus intends for **HIS body** to be built up and strengthened
 - importance of bringing and using our spiritual gifts to build one another up as we gather for worship

Gifts of Grace

- ❖ Some in Corinth were captivated by certain "showy" gifts while downplaying or devaluing gifts that may have seemed more mundane or common
 - who are the REALLY spiritual people?
 - do the "sign-gifts" indicate some sort of "top-tier" Christianity?
- ❖ Paul answers the Corinthians questions in 1 Cor 12-14

❖ Chapter 12

- the analogy of the human body
 - God chooses to exalt Himself through diversity and variety
 - the Holy Spirit glorifies Christ by giving all sorts of different gifts, service, and activities to God's people
 - God gives gifts to His church so that it can be built up, strengthened, edified, encouraged, helped
- when we gather for worship, God intends for us to come asking how we can serve (1 Corinthians 12:7, 14:12, 14:26)
 - exalting God involves serving others
 - God has given you something He intends for you to use and share with His people
- every part of the body is necessary for something!
 - your presence with God's people on Sundays is absolutely vital
 - your absence from being among us weakens the whole body and diminishes us
- every single member of Jesus' body brings something with him or her to offer someone else in worship

❖ Chapter 13

- the priority of love

- guidance and direction about the spirit and the attitude with which we are to build one another up when we gather
- without love, serving (and worship!) is worthless
- a "love check"
 - what is your attitude if someone else is singled out for something while your efforts are overlooked?
 - do you look for ways to affirm others in the body for the way their serving matters/ministers to you?

❖ Chapter 14

- putting it all together... putting loving service into action
- come prepared to build one another up by sharing a word of testimony, a kind word, an affirmation that you have been praying for someone's need, letting someone know that something they said or did made a difference to you
- keep pointing one another to Christ
 - the author of our salvation
 - the head of the body
 - the foundation of the Gospel

We serve out of gratefulness that Christ has served us. We comfort others with the comfort we've received from knowing our sins are forgiven. We encourage others to trust God, knowing that He who gave up His Son for us will graciously give us all things. We pray confidently to God, aware that Jesus Himself intercedes for us. We outdo one in showing honor because we've received the unimaginable honor of being called children of God.

We welcome one another as Christ has welcomed us, for the glory of God. In every way possible we draw attention to the grace we've been shown in the gospel, bringing glory to God in the process. True worshipers have the good of others in view because they have Christ's glory in view. We should never think about exalting God without thinking about serving and building up others as well. (Bob Kauflin in his book, *True Worshipers*)

Personal Reflection

1. Read 1 Corinthians 12-14 slowly, in one sitting. As you think about these words from God's Word, what message do you sense the Holy Spirit impressing upon you? How will you respond to or follow through with that message?
2. Do the "love check" listed above under the heading "Chapter 13". Are you serving others with the same kind of love with which Christ has served you? If not, what needs to change?
3. What spiritual gift(s) has God entrusted to you for building up the body of Christ as it gathers for worship? Are you using that gift on a regular basis?
4. What are a few simple, practical things you can do to help build up someone in the body of Christ as you gather with them for worship next Sunday?