

Christian Life Foundation Course

Session 4 – Growing Together in Christ

Last time – The Holy Spirit

His person

His gifts – 1 Corinthians 12, Romans 12-14, Ephesians 4:9

Purpose of gifts

Draw nearer to God – groanings too deep for words – Romans 8:26

Signs for unbelievers – Tongues, Healings – Acts 2, Acts 3:6, Acts 10

Edification and Well Being of the Church – Analogy of the Church as body

Tonight – How can we as the Body of Christ grow together in Christ

Proverbs 27:17 - Iron sharpens iron, and one man sharpens another

Matthew 18:19-20 – two agree/two or three are gathered

CAVEAT - Fellowship, birth, and gift are nouns!

In the hour of our salvation, God's Spirit sealed us as members of His Church

The Church Universal – not local congregation X... Y... Z...

The Body of Christ

Individual gifts provide needed functions within the Body – 1 Corinthians 12

Encouragement

Edification – e.g. shared joy in successes

Comfort – e.g. in mourning.

Discipleship

Support

Financial

Physical

Emotional

Allegiance in spiritual warfare against the enemy of our souls

Discernment

Intercessory Prayer

Accountability

Correction/Discipline

Matthew 18:15-17

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The Spirit works throughout the Body orchestrating the overall functions

Within the hearts of individual believers

Through local congregations – puts legs on the lofty concepts above

In small fellowships of believers

Learning about our brothers' and sisters' needs and gifts

Globally through support ministries

Financial

Physical – e.g. (re)building homes and facilities, disaster relief

Corporate Worship

Hebrews 10:23-25

Matthew 18:19-20 – two or three are gathered together

Corporate Prayer

For one another

With one another

Sharing meals together

Sharing mission labor together

Local

Non-local

Visiting the sick and shut-in together/individually

Sharing activities/travel

Corporate devotions

Sharing burdens

Physical

Emotional

Financial

We must guard against clannishness and judgementalism. –

All are welcome – Matthew 9:11-13, Luke 19:10, 1 Corinthians 6:9-11

Avalon song – We Will Stand