

Scripture: Deut. 5:1-21 & Romans 12:1-11

Singing: 413:1-2 – 123:1 – 426:1, 3, 7 – 323:1, 2, 4 – 162:1-2

Intro: *All growth comes with intense growing pains!*

THE CHRISTIAN CHURCH (2)

I. One body with different members II. A body governed by love

III. A body active in love

I. THE CHRISTIAN CHURCH IS ONE BODY WITH DIFFERENT MEMBERS

A. The unity of body of Christ is promoted when we *renew how we think about*

1. yourself (vs 3)

2. being one body in Christ (vs. 5a)

3. being members of each other (vs.4-5)

B. All believers are *gifted* according to God's sovereign grace (vs. 6)

1. As every man hath received the gift, even so minister the same one to another without grudging (1 Peter. 4:10)

2. Do not focus on your 'gift' but on **how to use** your gift! (vs. 6-8)

II. THE CHRISTIAN CHURCH IS A BODY GOVERNED BY LOVE

A. The main ingredient in all activity of each member is love (vs. 9; John 13:34)

1. Without charity all we do or give or serve is empty show (1 Cor. 13:1-3)

2. Using vs. 9-11, review the specifics of this love

a. Is my love sincere (without dissimulation)?

b. Do I abhor that which is evil (in the exercise of love)?

c. Am I committed (cleave) to what is good (in exercise of love)?

d. Am I kindly affectioned to each *family member* with brotherly love?

e. Do I show my honor (respect) to every member of the body?

III. THE CHRISTIAN CHURCH IS A BODY ACTIVE IN LOVE

A. God's details of His good, acceptable, and perfect will are challenging!

1. They are *an* uphill spiritual battle against our carnal flesh (vs. 11)

B. The hardest part in all this: we are to **serve the LORD** (11b)

1. Serving the Lord may not be(come) self-serving

2. Serving the Lord is *working for Him intensely*

3. Serving the Lord is *servng Him Who served/serves us* (Matt. 20:28)

Reflection

*We give thanks to God always for you all, making mention of you in our prayers; remembering without ceasing your work of faith, and **labor of love.*** (1 Thess. 1:7-8)

*For God is not unrighteous to forget your work and **labor of love*** (Heb. 6:10)

*And I entreat thee also, true yokefellow, help those women which **labored with me*** (Greek literally is 'wrestled jointly with me), *in the Gospel, with Clement also, and with other my fellow laborers.* (Phil. 4:3)

***From me** is thy fruit found.* (Hosea 14:8)