

The Church: The Body of Christ

I. Introduction

A. Scripture—1 Corinthians 12:12-13

B. Pray

C. “Beautiful Bride”—Flyleaf

Unified diversity, functioning as one body.

Every part encouraged by the other,

No one independent of another.

You’re irreplaceable, indispensable.

You’re incredible, incredible.

Beautiful bride, body of Christ.

One flesh abiding, strong and unifying.

Fighting ends in forgiveness.

Unite and fight all division.

Beautiful bride.

Strengthen your arms now, train your fingers for battle.

Urgency’s here now, train your fingers for battle.

Fighting this violence with your feet wrapped in peace.

Sad tears and silence, now screams of joy, victory.

We’re not gonna fall and forget,

How far you went to pick us up.

If one part’s hurt the whole body’s sick.

If one part mourns we all mourn with Him.

Rejoice, and we’ll sing with you. Hallelujah.

D. Define “Church”

1. NOT a building

2. A Covenant Community

3. Local, Denominational, Universal

4. Discuss the purposes of the church
 - a. “Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. This is the first and greatest commandment. And the second is like it: Love your neighbor as yourself” (Matthew 22:37-39).
 - b. “Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you” Mathew (28:19-20).
 - c. Worship, Ministry, Fellowship, Evangelism, and Discipleship

II. Body

- A. The church is a single organization with many different parts.
 1. 1 Corinthians 12:12, 14.
 2. Describe the different parts of the body and the different roles each part plays. Use “Mr. Potato Head” example.
 3. Describe the different types of people that are in a church and how they all act “symbiotically” with each other.
- B. Each part of the church has a role to play.
 1. 1 Corinthians 12:15-26.
 2. Illustrate passage with “Mr. Potato Head”.
 3. Discuss the important role that diversity plays in the enrichment of the community.
 4. Discuss “80-20” principle.
 - a. Discuss opportunities of participation within our church (youth, children, music, small groups, etc.)

- C. The church provides a means for each individual to be strengthened by the rest of the community.
1. Humanity was created for relationship. The first reference in the Bible to anything being “not good” is in regards to solitary man. **Genesis 2:18.**
 2. **Ecclesiastes 4:9-12.**
 3. **Hebrews 10:24-25.**
- D. The church should be united, not divided.
1. **1 Corinthians 1:10.**
 2. **1 Corinthians 12:25.**
 3. Illustrate the futility of individual parts of the body trying to work in isolation with “Mr. Potato Head”.
 4. **Acts 4:32.**
 5. This doesn’t mean that we’ll always agree on everything or that we should refrain from speaking our minds. But we should be mindful of the perspectives of others when we do so.
 - a. **Philippians 2:3-4.**
- E. “Thus far we have been discussing ideals. The reality is that many church bodies are, in fact, divided.”
1. Give examples of potential areas of division: Carpet color, times of services, types of seats, property issues, construction plans, color of soap in restrooms, etc.
 2. Discuss music and worship styles.
 - a. Poll musical tastes.
 - b. **Play first video clip.**
 - c. Discuss true worship. Worship derives from our attitudes and intentions. If we come with the objective of being served and the sole aim of being blessed, it is unlikely that we will, in fact, be blessed. If we come

with the attitude of serving others and blessing God, we ourselves will be blessed in the process.

- d. There is no “Biblically correct” music style. Music should be selected that is going to best fulfill our purposes.
- e. Play worship clips.
- f. Younger people should respect and learn from the musical tastes of older people.
- g. Likewise, the older generations need to recognize that our church will not be relevant to the younger generations if we refuse to adapt in such a way that they can relate to. (“And Can It Be?” Charles Wesley—1738, Thomas Campbell—1825)
- h. The purpose of evangelism is not going to be effective if we refuse to find ways to relate to the culture we are trying to evangelize, and one of the most powerful tools in doing this is music.

F. I believe that we love each other, despite our differences, but sometimes our own personal tastes get in the way of showing that love.

- 1. “Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit, but in humility consider others better than yourselves. Each of you should look not only to your own interests, but also to the interests of others” (Philippians 2:3-4).

G. We need to be less concerned about our own tastes and our own desires and more concerned about what is going to most effectively communicate the Gospel and expand the Kingdom of God.

III. Closing

A. “The Heart of Worship” Story

The song dates back to the late 1990s, born from a period of apathy within Matt's home church, Soul Survivor, in Watford, England. Despite the country's overall contribution to the current worship revival, Redman's congregation was struggling to find meaning in its musical outpouring at the time.

"There was a dynamic missing, so the pastor did a pretty brave thing," he recalls. "He decided to get rid of the sound system and band for a season, and we gathered together with just our voices. His point was that we'd lost our way in worship, and the way to get back to the heart would be to strip everything away."

Reminding his church family to be producers in worship, not just consumers, the pastor, Mike Pilavachi, asked, "When you come through the doors on a Sunday, what are you bringing as your offering to God?"

Matt says the question initially led to some embarrassing silence, but eventually people broke into a cappella songs and heartfelt prayers, encountering God in a fresh way.

"Before long, we reintroduced the musicians and sound system, as we'd gained a new perspective that worship is all about Jesus, and He commands a response in the depths of our souls no matter what the circumstance and setting. 'The Heart of Worship' simply describes what occurred."