

Gospel Shaped Leadership - Membership

Know Your Thread

1. Office of the church that we have not discussed → membership
 - a. Some have a demented view of membership
 - i. Member's Only, Price Plus Club, Country Club, "We've Arrived"
 - b. Some are strongly against the idea of membership
 - i. No accountability, no commitment, no responsibility, lone ranger
 - c. Hard to do the one another's by yourself
 - d. Hope to provide a framework (not exhaustive explanation) of membership
2. *[Romans 12:1] I appeal to you therefore, brothers, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship. [2] Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect.*
 - a. "What is the will of God for my life?" → "I want to have meaning and purpose..."
 - i. Many are in this place today...
 - b. "Conformed to this world" → The world has an idea of how to find meaning...
 - i. Draw in 1 Timothy: gnosticism, asceticism, antinomianism
 - c. "I appeal to you therefore..." → The Gospel gives another alternative...
 - i. 1 Timothy: sound doctrine = shaped by Gospel, reflecting cross
 - ii. Paul's appeal is because of the Gospel (frees us to live God's life)
 - iii. Paul's appeal is in response to the Gospel
 1. Give yourself as a sacrifice... an offering for God's XYZ
 - a. Alive → Choice, Don't crawl off the altar
 - b. Holy → for the glory of Christ, cleansed by Christ
 2. Spiritual worship (or) Reasonable act of worship
 - a. The only logical thing to do in light of Jesus
 - d. **All of us are here because of the Gospel and for the sake of the Gospel**
 - i. Reason for the church, the reason for leadership, membership, etc
 - ii. **Membership isn't about a club, it's about the Gospel**
 3. *[3] For by the grace given to me I say to everyone among you not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think, but to think with sober judgment, each according to the measure of faith that God has assigned.*
 - a. Sober judgment = Humility → filling your space
 - i. Don't think of yourself too highly (some struggle w/ this)
 - ii. Don't think of yourself too lowly (some struggle w/ this)
 - b. Measure of faith that God has assigned → refers to using your unique gift
 - c. To say it another way, **You have a unique gift from God for his purposes.**
 - d. For by the grace given to Paul (teaching, prophecy, apostleship) he tells us this solid, biblical, inspired truth → You have a role to play, a part in the story
 - e. Each member of the body has a unique gift and calling, a thread

- i. The idea of some having a “calling” to be a committed is a load of crap
- f. **You have a thread to weave in God’s tapestry.**
 - i. The picture isn’t accurate without your thread
- 4. *[4] For as in one body we have many members, and the members do not all have the same function, [5] so we, though many, are one body in Christ, and individually members one of another.*
 - a. In order for us to understand this, God gives us a metaphor of a body
 - i. Christ as the head, we as the members (e.g. body parts)
 - b. A body is made up of different parts working together
 - i. Not an abomination (e.g. like a fantasy game or zombie movie)
 - c. Every body part has a unique function
 - i. Did you know that you get a new stomach lining every three to four days? If you didn't, the strong acids your stomach uses to digest food would also digest your stomach. (lining is different from the acid...)
 - ii. Your nose can remember 50,000 smells... stomach lining can’t do that
 - iii. Every part of your body is unique, working in unison
 - d. **The body only functions when everything works according to its purpose.**
 - e. The spiritual body - the church - is the same way
 - f. **You have a unique role, but we all have the same end goal - the glory of God as displayed in the Gospel**
- 5. *[6] Having gifts that differ according to the grace given to us, let us use them: if prophecy, in proportion to our faith; [7] if service, in our serving; the one who teaches, in his teaching; [8] the one who exhorts, in his exhortation; the one who contributes, in generosity; the one who leads, with zeal; the one who does acts of mercy, with cheerfulness.*
 - a. These unique roles that we have are called spiritual gifts...
 - i. Read some off of assessment, explain assessment
 - ii. This helps you to know your thread, your wiring, your calling
 - b. **God gives gifts to each of us in order to spread the Gospel and to build his body (the church).**
- 6. We are here to worship God and to spread his Gospel
 - a. You have a unique, gifted role to play in this internally... externally...
 - b. Know your gifting, use your gifting, live it out
 - c. This is what being a healthy body (healthy body parts) is all about
 - d. So what is a church member?
 - e. Upon salvation you are a part of the global church
 - f. But you choose to submit yourself, under qualified leaders, to a local church
 - i. A microcosm of the global church, same purposes
 - g. Local church members are people who are...
 - i. Baptized, Equipped, Committed, Contributing
 - ii. This is just scratching the service of all the ins and outs of membership as prescribed in the Bible (check out revolvechurchnj.com/membership)
 - h. **What’s your thread?**