



LIFE GROUP SERMON NOTES

“We Are Family: Connection”

Ps Steve Murrell – August 31, 2014

WARM-UP (10-15 minutes)

Choose a question below to answer, or ask another. *No right or wrong answers.*

- Were you popular in high school or were you left out? What group of friends did you feel a part of?
- What's your best quality?
- What would you like to change about yourself? Why?

WORD (10-15 minutes)

Sermons can be heard online at bethelbrentwood.org/media.

Every human is designed by God to connect with him and with others. It is a fundamental human need.

We must build friendships, marriages, families, and churches according to God's Word, not our experiences because these may not always be good or right. The Bible must shape our views and values.

The human body is a key analogy used by Paul to speak of the church. In the human body there are no spare parts. Likewise, everyone has value and is needed in the church.

1 Corinthians 12:27 ESV *Now you are the body of Christ and individually members of it.*

- "You" is plural, not singular. Individuals are not the body of Christ; the community of faith is.
- We must reject the thought which comes to many people: "I don't belong."

Two lies that keep people from connecting and committing to the church are as follows:

- "They don't need me," which expresses insecurity.
- "I don't need them," which expresses independence.
- Until we deal with the insecurity and independence in our own hearts, we will not connect with others as we should and need to do.

Paul addresses both of these lies in 1 Corinthians 12.

Insecurity: 1 Corinthians 12:14-20 ESV For the body does not consist of one member but of many. If the foot should say, "Because I am not a hand, I do not belong to the body," that would not make it any less a part of the body. And if the ear should say, "Because I am not an eye, I do not belong to the body," that would not make it any less a part of the body. If the whole body were an eye, where would be the sense of hearing? If the whole body were an ear, where would be the sense of smell? But as it is, God arranged the members in the body, each one of them, as he chose. If all were a single member, where would the body be? As it is, there are many parts, yet one body.

- We cannot function as we were designed to function, if we are cut off from others. Others need us just as we need them.

Independence: 1 Corinthians 12:21-26 ESV *The eye cannot say to the hand, "I have no need of you," nor again the head to the feet, "I have no need of you." On the contrary, the parts of the body that seem to be weaker are indispensable, and on those parts of the body that we think less honorable we bestow the greater honor, and our unpresentable parts are treated with greater modesty, which our more presentable parts do not require. But God has so composed the body, giving greater honor to the part that lacked it, that there may be no division in the body, but that the members may have the same care for one another. If one member suffers, all suffer together; if one member is honored, all rejoice together.*

- No member can remain healthy by itself. We are only capable of being healthy when we are properly placed and connected in the whole body.

Let us therefore deliberately connect with others, committing ourselves to others and to our church, for each of us belongs to Christ and to one another. Christ died for our sins, rose again, and sent the Holy Spirit into our hearts, that he might reconcile us to God and build us into a family with God as our Father, Jesus as our older brother, and the church as our brothers and sisters.

PERSONAL APPLICATION (10-15 minutes)

Choose an item below to discuss, or introduce another related topic for discussion.

- What's your part in the body of Christ? How can you serve the body better?
- Do you think you are fully connected to the local church? What do you need to do to connect more at Bethel?
- What do you struggle with mostly, insecurity or independence? What are you going to do to overcome?

PRAYER (10-15 minutes)

Pray for any of the following, as well as any other requests you may have.

- That God would help us overcome insecurity and independence, and connect more deeply with others in our church.
- That God would use us to help others know that they are valued and needed in our church family.
- That God would use us to lead others to understand that God values them and desires them to enter into his spiritual family through repentance from sin and belief in Jesus Christ.