

HOME CHURCH

FOR DISCUSSION:

- How would you explain what the church is to someone who has never heard of “church”?
- There are many images of the local church in the New Testament - a living house of living stones, the pillar and ground of truth, a new people/nation, a kingdom of priests, a prophetic community, The Bride of Christ, the body of Christ, etc. (Building, Body, Bride). Which images speak to you the most in THIS time? What is the hardest for you to understand or imagine, and why?
- Read the 1 Corinthians 12 passage again. What jumps out at you?
- What changes in your thinking and actions if you see yourself more as a ‘body part’ of the local church ‘body’ instead of seeing yourself as an attendee of an event or series of events?
- If you think of the local church as a body first, what changes in how we care for and use our together “body”?
- What gifts (spiritual gifts, talents) do you believe God has or wants to give you in this time? (Note he gives gifts for times of crisis as well as long-term use and cultivation).
- What gifts does our church need to tell the Story of Jesus to others during this time?
- Review any other questions or conversation threads that speak to caring for the body of Christ...
- Think of ONE action you can and will do this week to build the church body.

PRAYER:

MARCH 29, 2020 ☩ LENT 5

PANDEMIC *and the* PANTOKRATOR

NOT A BUILDING, A BODY - The Church

The virus has forced us into a greater awareness of the body. We are material beings very susceptible to brokenness and evil in creation, but what does this mean for "the body of Christ," the local church? The Pandemic reminds us we are matter and more than matter. Jesus reveals to us there are parts of us that a plague cannot extinguish.

1 Corinthians 12:27 (NET Bible)

Now you are Christ's body, and each of you is a member of it.

Romans 8:1-12 (NET Bible)

The Believer's Relationship to the Holy Spirit

There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus. For the law of the life-giving Spirit in Christ Jesus has set you free from the law of sin and death. For God achieved what the law could not do because it was weakened through the flesh. By sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh and concerning sin, he condemned sin in the flesh, so that the righteous requirement of the law may be fulfilled in us, who do not walk according to the flesh but according to the Spirit.

For those who live according to the flesh have their outlook shaped by the things of the flesh, but those who live according to the Spirit have their outlook shaped by the things of the Spirit. For the outlook of the flesh is death, but the outlook of the Spirit is life and peace, because the outlook of the flesh is hostile to God, for it does not submit to the law of God, nor is it able to do so. Those who are in the flesh cannot please God. You, however, are not in the flesh but in the Spirit, if indeed the Spirit of God lives in you. Now if anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, this person does not belong to him. But if Christ is in you, your body is dead because of sin, but the Spirit is your life because of righteousness. Moreover if the Spirit of the one who raised Jesus from the dead lives in you, the one who raised Christ from the dead will also make your mortal bodies alive through his Spirit who lives in you.

So then, brothers and sisters, we are under obligation, not to the flesh, to live according to the flesh

BIG IDEA:

YOUR BODY - Christian View of Flesh, Spirit, Being

Your spirit and God's spirit meet up IN your body!

1 Corinthians 6:19

THE CHURCH AS A BODY

"The present corporeal, earthly manifestation of the saving act of Christ [The Church], is not just "like" a body, it "is" a body. But the special nature of this body is that the "being a body" is effected by Christ" (IVP, Biblical Imagery, 109).

- We are persons in community, vs. isolated individuals.
- You are a member, a "body part" in the Church body

CARE FOR THE BODY

- Remember you are ONE with others (Yes, we already said this).

Rest

Work & Serve

Eat

Play

CRISIS CHANGES TO CHURCH BODY

- Gathering changes short term/long term
- Leaning into and out from brokenness.

Touching lepers

Risking life

Saving life

NOW WHAT?

Practical Steps Self-Care for the Body of Christ