

What Are We Doing Here?

Part 2

Body Parts



Introduction

- [slide 2] This is a theater. It's where I go to see plays, but I'm not a part of the cast or crew. There are others/better, depends on my mood and what I'm looking for.
- [slide 3] This is an auditorium. It's where I go to hear music, but I'm not in the band. There are others/better, depends on my mood and what I'm looking for.
- [slide 4] This is a movie theater. It's where I go to see movies, but I'm not on the screen. There are others/better, depends on my mood and what I'm looking for.
- [slide 5 and 6] oops!
- [slide 7] This is a restaurant. It's where I go for Thai food, but I'm not a chef or a server. There are others/better, depends on my mood and what I'm looking for.
- [slide 8] This is a store. It's where I go for stuff, but I'm not a checker or stocker there. There are others/better, depends on my mood and what I'm looking for.
- [slide 9] This is a church. It's where I go to sing songs, hear a talk, and see some people, but I'm not the pastor or the music leader or Sunday School teacher there. There are others/better, depends on my mood and what I'm looking for.

One of these things is not like the others. One of these things, doesn't belong in this list. Which one? The last one. Why? The others are about consuming, The last one is about contributing. The others are about satisfying self. The last one is about serving selflessly. The others are about primarily meeting my own needs my way. The last one is about primarily meeting the needs of others with my gifts.

Ingression

Lest you think that we're going to talk about how you are supposed to give, give, give and how we can take, take, take, understand this; as a group of people called the church, we are a body. [10] A body is an collection of interconnected and interdependent parts, or members, that can only function well when all of the parts are doing their part, when it has a good diet, and when it exercises properly. A church body is very much the same thing.

Inspiration

Review series title and purpose. This is a "what are we" study. Still big picture stuff.

While we are attempting to answer the question, "what are we doing here" we are also defining what it means to be a part/member of TEC, this local body, regardless of how visible you may be. Define usage of part/member.

Open to **Romans 12**.

Before we get into it, understand this; I wrestled with this this week. You need to wrestle with it too. I'm not talking about them out there primarily, I'm talking to and about us in here, myself included. Am I, as the pastor, also a part of this church, or am I more like the church's doctor, trying to take care of it from the outside (which happens regardless of church size)? Would I be a part of this church were I not the pastor?

Ingression

We are going to take on this idea of the body and body parts/members in three chunks: the thinking, the being, and the doing.

The Thinking

Ideation

[11] The degree to which we believe something will determine the degree to which we act. If that's true, what needs to be our thinking about this church body and our part/function in it?

Instruction

Read Romans 12:1-3, highlighting as you go.

12:1 This is the only reasonable action to take in light of what God has done through Jesus.

12:2 As our minds are renewed we both come to know what God's will is, and come to see it as good, acceptable, and complete, whereas, apart from this renewal, we would not know it or see it that way.

12:3 As we come to learn and know what our part in the body is as a result of presenting and renewing, keep in mind that this is God's thing, not yours.

Implementation

[12] To present your body is not a one time thing. It means to be in a state of presentation. Not just Sundays, not just Bible studies, all the time, everywhere. Is that you? Are you presenting your body in your marriage (not sexually), as a parent, as a sibling, at work, in your "free time," in this church (the point of this)? Motivated by your love for God because of His love for you.

[13] To not be conformed and be transformed are both commands that can only be accomplished by the renewing of your mind. How do you do that? Garbage in, garbage out. Jesus in, Jesus out. How can you tell if it's working? You will look less like the world and more like Jesus. You will be more clear about what God's will is and you will see it, whatever it is, as good, acceptable, and complete.

[14] To think soberly means to not think to highly, and not to think to lowly of yourself. It means to think of yourself in terms of what God has assigned to you. It is no big thing, it is no small thing, it is just the right thing, which should be a very humbling and a very honoring thing.

There is a difference between agreeing with these things and believing these things. The difference is this; we act on that which we believe, whereas we just nod our heads with that which we agree. Jesus doesn't use people who agree, He uses people who believe.

Interconnection

This is the thinking and believing that need to drive our actions. But in order to know what to do we need to know what we are.

The Being

Ideation

[15] As Christians, we are called to function, participate, and serve in a particular place within the body of Christ (the church). Just as a healthy body requires that each member does its part well, so does the church. (Again, this isn't about them out there, it's about us in here.)

Instruction

Read Romans 12:4-5, highlighting as you go. What are we? A body.

[16] Read I Corinthians 12:12-27, highlighting as you go. Interconnected, interdependent. Eph. 4:24, I Pet. 4:8-10 echo.

What are these parts?

Every living body has a spirit. Whose Spirit is the the church body? God's, the HS. Individually and collectively.

Jesus the capitol-H head, pastor/elders the little-head. Rant on pastor and pastor's wife as part of the church.

Will get to specific parts in the doing section, right now need to get pic picture. Are you seeing it? [Interdependent and interconnected](#).

[17] Three dangers a church body faces. [Functionally dismembered](#). [Fat cells](#). [Cancer, both aggressive and passive](#) (worse than wolves).

The way to deal with these dangers in the church body is not how they are dealt with in the physical. Physical body would replace, burn off, and cut out. [18] Church body supernaturally heals; [reattach](#), [resorb](#), [restore](#).

Implementation

[19] [Reattach](#). [Get connected and stay interconnected](#). [Romans 12:5a](#)

[20] [Resorb](#). [Allow yourself to be broken down so that the Holy Spirit's power](#) (God's energy at work) [in you can be released](#). [Galatians 5:16+](#)

[21] [Restore](#). [The key to restoration is repentance](#). Stop being independent, become interdependent. [Romans 12:5b](#).

Interesting that at the heart of all of these is humility.

Interconnection

Being the body is a very intimate, deep, and powerful thing. But it's what we have been designed and called to be. A body isn't designed to stand there and look pretty, it's designed to work. it's designed to do.

The Doing

Ideation

[22] [The members of a body are called to be sacrificially committed and well equipped to do the works of service that God has prepared in advance for them to do](#).

Instruction

[Read Romans 12:6-8](#), highlighting as you go.

The purpose of the body is to do what the Head and the Spirit tell it to do.

Bodies can do a lot. a time to sit, stand, sleep, run, rest, eat, hug, work. it needs all the parts doing what they do.

Scripture surfing. [23] [Ephesians 2:10, 4:11-12, I Corinthians 12:7-11, 28-31](#). (List given out, and much more!)

While there are two major divisions in the body, one is not better than the other. Talking about leaders and members. It should never be us vs. them. That's a cancer. Talk more about that next few weeks.

Implementation

[24] How do I find out that I am or what I can do? Ask! Be open to being told what you are or aren't. Get equipped, or allow yourself to be equipped, and then do. (Nick and Jeff.)

Interconnection

Parts/Members of a church have a high calling and a high degree of responsibility and service. At the same time, the leadership are to assist the parts to first and foremost love and lead, provide counsel and aid, and pray for and teach.

Imploration

The Lord can work through the parts/members of TEC and much as anyone else in history. We are called to be missionaries of the gospel to the culture. God, in His sovereignty, has placed us in this city, among these people, in this century, for a reason.

Church stats in FG and surrounding.

If we all give ourselves over to be the body parts that Jesus has called and equipped us to be, in and by the power of the Holy Spirit, we can make a serious dent in the culture of Forest Grove for the Kingdom of God. It requires being deliberate about our thinking, our being, and our doing. This is for all of us. Are you up for it?