

SERMON RECAP: "YOU ARE GOD'S GIFT TO THE CHURCH" – ROMANS 12:3-8

The Apostle Paul says we, individuals as well as the church, who have been transformed by the power of the Holy Spirit are to look like Christ and not the world. This morning we look at three more marks of the healthy (faithful) church as it prospers in submitting to Christ's headship. Christ has given each of us gifts to use to bless the church, making you God's gift to the church.

For reflection:

1. Mark #3 of a healthy church: A church where people consider the interests of others above their own interests (v 3)
 - a. Have a sober assessment of yourself
 - i. How has God gifted me?
 - ii. Am I using my gifts to bless others?
 - iii. Do I get in God's way?
 - b. We are called to serve rather than to be served (Philippians 2:5-8)
2. Mark #4 of a healthy church: The church functions as a body (v 4-5)
 - a. We are called to unity (1 Corinthians 12:12-14)
 - b. Christ is the head of the body (Ephesians 5:22-24. Revelation 19:17-19, 21:2,9)
3. Mark #5 of a healthy church: A church that uses its gifts to bless others (v 6-8)
 - a. Different gifts allow the church to function properly (1 Corinthians 12:15-21)

THIS WEEK

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 31 – FAMILY NIGHT PLANS:

On October 31st, we will have a Family Movie Night in place of our regular Awana classes at 6:30 PM in the Multi-Purpose Room. Youth group and Prayer Meeting will also continue as usual – hope to see you there.

DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME ENDS THIS WEEKEND:

Please don't forget to move your clocks BACK one hour before you go to bed Saturday night. If you don't, you might show up at what you think is 9 AM for worship and find nobody here yet! (It won't mean that Tim LaHaye is right...it just means you're an hour early.) Set those clocks, enjoy the extra hour of sleep, and we'll see you at the right time on Sunday!

NO BRUNCH THIS SUNDAY – WE WILL COME TO THE LORD'S SUPPER AND HAVE SUNDAY SCHOOL:

Because of the Thanksgiving dinner (keep reading below!), we will NOT have our brunch this Sunday, Nov 4. Sunday School WILL be held. And we will come to the Lord's Table. Before coming, think about what is in front of you. In the bread and the cup, we have a visible sign established by God – Augustine called them "visible words". We certainly confess our faith when we come to His Table – 1 Corinthians 11:26 says that "we proclaim the Lord's death until He comes". But first, it is given to us by Jesus Christ. The bread is a sign of His body, given for you. The juice is a sign of the New Covenant, shed for remission of your sin. Therefore, God communicates Christ to us in them, yet they also depend on the Word. "Faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the Word of Christ" (Romans 10:17). Just as the Word falls on ears that cannot hear unless God by His grace gives us faith, so also the same happens when we come to His Supper. In preparing, then, let's pray that we come the same way we come to His Word – praying that the Holy Spirit would point out sin, point us to Christ in new repentance, and grant us faith to take His bread and cup – to take Him spiritually – and seal all of the riches of His salvation on us so that we go forward in increased faith, all by His grace.

COME HELP RAISE A ROOF!

Some of you have seen the great work Tony Perella has been doing on the addition to their new home. The roof trusses arrive this week, and Tony could use your help getting them set in place. If you are available, your muscles are needed – work will begin around 8 AM this Saturday (November 3rd).

LOST AND FOUND:

LAST WEEK! There is a table between the sanctuary and the multi-purpose room that has a lot of things that have lost their owners! Please check to make sure that you haven't left something behind – we'll leave it out through Sunday, Nov 4 and then donate any unclaimed items to the Community Closet.

VOTER GUIDES FROM PA FAMILY COUNCIL ARE AVAILABLE:

We have the Pennsylvania Family Council's guides for the upcoming election available in the lobby. We encourage you to learn about the issues, seek where Scripture speaks on them, prayerfully consider the candidates, and vote in the upcoming election! Of course, we don't endorse any particular candidate or party. But we encourage you to vote – it is a way that we can be salt and light in our society!

OTHER NEWS, UPCOMING EVENTS, AND OPPORTUNITIES TO SERVE

THANKSGIVING DINNER COMING SOON:

Church Thanksgiving Dinner: The church Thanksgiving Dinner is planned for November 18th at noon. Church service will begin at 10:30 a.m. There will not be Sunday school that Sunday.

We ask that you please make your reservations on the **attendance sheets**. Please mark the number of adults and please note children under the age of 10. Deadline for reservations will be Sunday, November 11th.

We are going to be doing things a little different this year. We have put food sign-up sheets on a table in the Narthex. We need volunteers to cook the turkey (church will supply) and bring the meat to us already off the bone and the broth separate. We will contact you about the details. We will supply oven bags for you to use for the sliced turkey. We are asking for sweet potato or mashed potato casseroles, traditional stuffing, and green bean or corn casseroles. We will supply aluminum pans for you to use for your casseroles. You may contact Eleanor DeLong or the church office. Because of limited oven space, please bring your casseroles hot. We are also asking for Fall desserts. Please feel free to sign up for more than one dish. There will be recipes for your convenience if needed on the table. Rolls, relish trays, cranberry sauce and drink will be provided. Any questions, please contact Carrie Shuman (717.715.5854), Rachel Herr (717.341.6797) or the church office.

UPDATED CHURCH DIRECTORY:

We're working on printing a new directory – we've noted that many of the addresses/phones of people have changed. And in some cases, families have grown! Please look at the Welcome Center where we have printed all the information we have for you and make corrections by November 25th.

EARLY BULLETIN CUTOFF FOR THANKSGIVING WEEK:

The cutoff for getting us any prayer requests or announcements for the November 25th bulletin will be Monday, November 19th. That will let our hard-working office staff get the bulletins printed and enjoy Thanksgiving with their families!