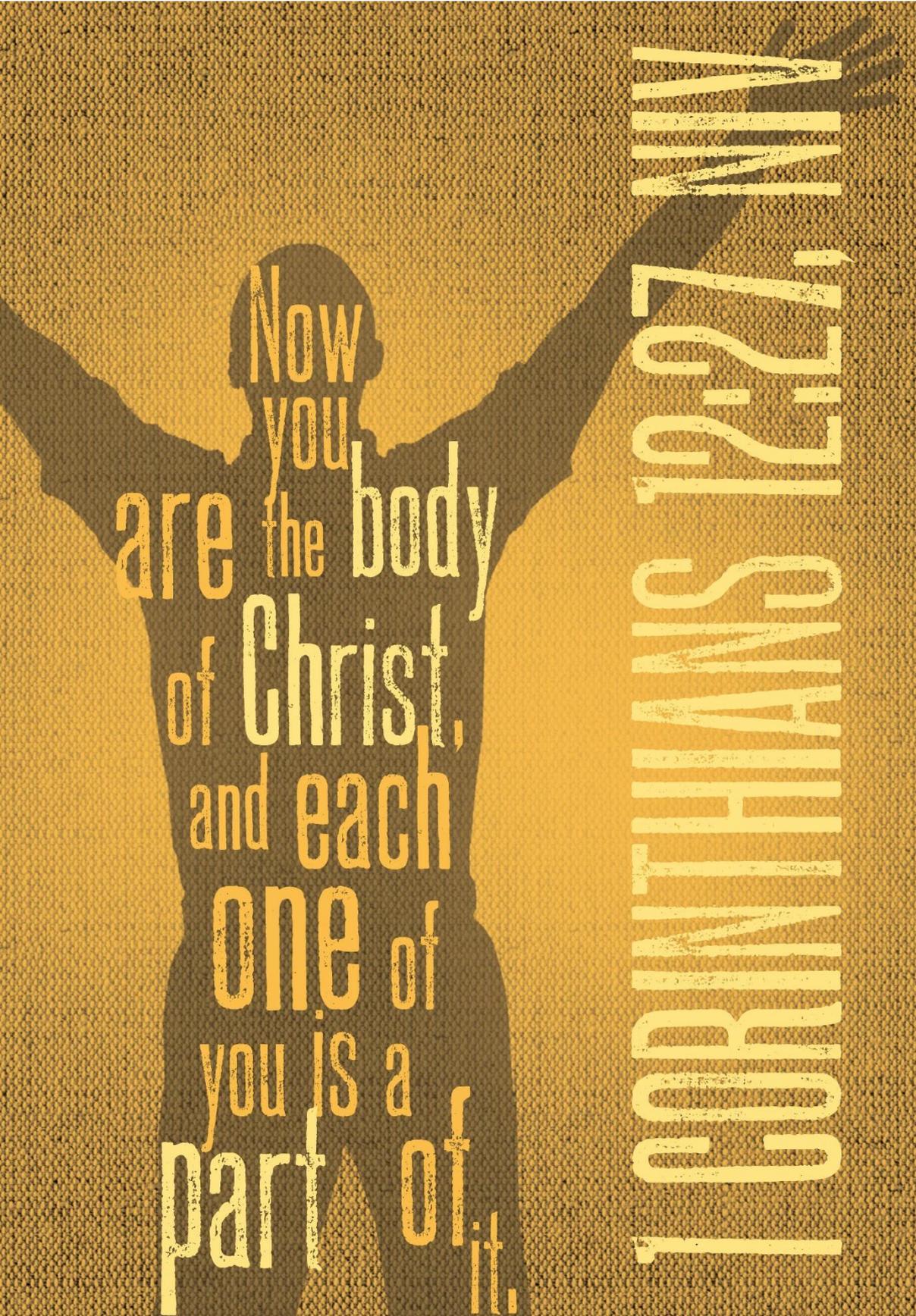


One Church, One Team



Welcome I have given them the glory that you gave me, that they may be one as we are one: I in them and you in me. May they be brought to complete unity to let the world know that you sent me and have loved them even as you have loved me.
John 17:22-23

Hymn give me oil in my lamp 167

Talk 1

Do you enjoy working jigsaw puzzles? Jigsaw puzzles can be a lot of fun. (Open the box to reveal the pieces of the puzzle.) Wow! Look at all the pieces of this puzzle. The pieces of this puzzle are in many different sizes, shapes, colours. If you look at one piece of this puzzle, you don't get very much of the picture, do you? No, the pieces are not very important by themselves, but when they are all joined together and become one, they show the total picture.

This jigsaw puzzle can teach us an important lesson about the church. The church is made up of many individual members. Like the pieces of this puzzle, the members of a church come in different sizes, shapes, and colours. Jesus himself prayed that the church would be one so that the world would see God's love in us. You and I are part of the picture. Jesus wants us to love one another, help one another, and serve one another. When we do that, we become one, just as Jesus prayed we would be, and when we are one, the world can see God's love in us.

Unfortunately, just as it is sometimes difficult to put all of the pieces of a jigsaw puzzle together, the individual members of the family sometimes have a hard time being one with each other. But as we may hear people in the church saying things like "I don't like the songs we sing" or "The preacher preaches too long." When we say things like that and concentrate on our own likes and dislikes, we are no longer being one. We are like the individual pieces of the puzzle. The world cannot see God's love in us. They don't get the whole picture.

Now like a puzzle we may all be part of a big team let's try and make an orchestra ask children to come and help all make sounds. Then give them sounds to make music.

Jesus wants us to work together to get better to continue learning so that together we can make beautiful music and as we get older we can make big changes to make our world a better place

If you ever find yourself thinking about yourself, rather than being united with others remember that Jesus prayed that we would be one. When we are one, bound together by Christ's love, the world will see God's love through us.

Prayer & Lords Prayer

Hymn Bind us together

Bible Reading 1 Corinthians 12:12-31

I am sure that all of you probably know the song and dance called "The Hokey Cokey." It goes like this:

*You put your right hand in,
You put your right hand out.
You put your right hand in
And you shake it all about.
You do the Hokey Cokey
And you turn yourself around
That's what it's all about.*

After your right hand, you put your left hand in, then your right foot, then your left foot, then your head, until finally, you put your "whole self in!" What a fun song!

Can you imagine what would happen if you were doing the "Hokey Cokey" and the left hand refused to do the "Hokey Cokey" because it wanted to be the right foot?

What if the right foot said, "Since I am not the left hand, I am not part of the body so I refuse to do the 'Hokey Cokey?'"

The next thing you know, the head might say, "I don't need any of you, I can 'Hokey Cokey' all by myself!"

Oh, no! This can never be. The hands, the feet, the head...they are all part of the "whole self." You need them all to do the "Hokey Cokey." After all, like the song says, "That's what it's all about!"

Maybe this example of the "Hokey Cokey" seems a little bit silly, but it is a good picture of the church. The Bible teaches us that the church is the body of Christ and that it is made up of many members. Each member is different and each has been given different gifts.

Some have been given the gift of preaching and teaching while others have been given the gift of healing. Some people are good leaders and have been given the gift of seeing that everything runs smoothly while others may have been given the gift of helping others.

Just as God gave us hands, feet, head, eyes, and ears to meet the needs of the whole body, God has given the church different members with different gifts to meet the needs of the whole church.

And just like the "Hokey Cokey" says, "That's what it's all about!"

So like our jigsaw all of us is needed to be the best we can be. God needs everyone here to give of their amazing gifts to be his church here in Sheppey

HYMN: The church's one foundation

Offertory

Reading mark 3 v 13 -19

Jesus Appoints the Twelve

¹³ Jesus went up on a mountainside and called to him those he wanted, and they came to him. ¹⁴ He appointed twelve¹⁴ that they might be with him and that he might send them out to preach ¹⁵ and to have authority to drive out demons. ¹⁶ These are the twelve he appointed: Simon (to whom he gave the name Peter), ¹⁷ James son of Zebedee and his brother John (to them he gave the name Boanerges, which means "sons of thunder"), ¹⁸ Andrew, Philip, Bartholomew, Matthew, Thomas, James son of Alphaeus, Thaddaeus, Simon the Zealot ¹⁹ and Judas Iscariot, who betrayed him.

Hymn Take my life and let it be

Every year in Alaska, a 1000-mile dogsled race, a run for prize money and prestige, commemorates an original "race" run to save lives. Back in January of 1926, six-year-old Richard Stanley showed symptoms of diphtheria, signaling the possibility of an outbreak in the small town of Nome. When the boy passed away a day later, Dr. Curtis Welch began immunizing children and adults with an experimental but effective anti-diphtheria serum. But it wasn't long before Dr. Welch's supply ran out, and the nearest serum was in Nenana, Alaska--1000 miles of frozen wilderness away. Amazingly, a group of trappers and prospectors volunteered to cover the distance with their dog teams! Operating in relays from trading post to trapping station and beyond, one sled started out from Nome while another, carrying the serum, started from Nenana. Oblivious to frostbite, fatigue, and exhaustion, the teamsters mushed relentlessly until, after 144 hours in minus 50-degree winds, the serum was delivered to Nome. As a result, only one other life was lost to the potential epidemic. Their sacrifice had given an entire town the gift of life.

The power of God moves in a variety of ways. God moves through the dedication of service. God moves through the sacrifice of giving. When God pours out His power, amazing things happen. Lives are changed, hope is reborn, eternity meets the earthly. God also allows His power and presence to move through teamwork. When the people of God join together and partner with God and one another amazing things take place.

We see illustrations of teamwork all through the message of the Bible.

- Noah and his sons built the Ark
- Joshua led the armies of Israel to great victories
- Nehemiah assembled a team to rebuild the walls of Jerusalem

One of the best examples of teamwork flows out of the gospels. Jesus built the greatest team to ever grace planet earth. This handful of people would bring unparalleled change to the world. The twelve apostles would become world changers. God would move on their lives and move through their lives.

Jesus selected leaders based on spiritual insight. Jesus based His decisions on the potential of the person. Jesus ignored the what the people looked like of those He selected because there was more than what could be seen. Jesus did not allow their status or personal limitations be factors in His decisions.

Jesus chose people for His inner circle that makes us wonder about the wisdom of His decision. Jesus never allowed outward appearance to play a role in His selecting His team. Jesus refused to see people for where they were at the moment but saw what they could become.

When Jesus looked at Simon Peter, he did not see the fisherman who would deny Him three times. Jesus saw the preacher of Pentecost. When Jesus looked at Matthew, He did not see the tax collector that everyone hated. He saw the writer of the gospel. When Jesus looked at Thomas, he did not see the doubter. He saw the courageous man who proclaimed my Lord and my God.

Jesus assembled the unlikely to accomplish the impossible. He does the same thing today. Jesus ignored the stereotypes of leadership and developed great leaders by investing Himself into them. Jesus invested Himself into the disciples to see His character flow out of their lives. Investing in people spiritually always trumps providing training or developing their skills.

The team that Jesus built was far from perfect and revealed some unusual choices by Jesus. The team had its ups and its downs. Jesus dealt with several of the common problems that have the ability to destroy teams.

Division: Who is the greatest?

The disciples argued over position on several occasions. The common point was who was the greatest among the disciples. The question was really aimed at who had the highest position and authority among the twelve. The same argument was made for determining the pecking order of who had to do the lowest chores, such as washing each other's feet.

Jesus solved the problem with position among the disciples by showing them the power of serving. The answer for position in the church is serving. If the person is unwilling to serve others and put the needs of others above their own personal agenda, they are not fit to lead.

Dissension – Peter arguing with Jesus about the crucifixion

Dissension is an open and often heated disagreement. There are multiple times when we see the disciples against each other. One such incident involves Peter. Peter had just proclaimed Jesus as the Christ and the Messiah. Jesus then tells the disciples that He was going to die on the cross. Peter pulls Jesus aside and rebukes Him for such thinking.

Solution: Discipleship

Jesus issues a straight forward clarification to Peter and declares His mission. There are times when individual Christians or even the church needs to be clarified and get back on track through careful examination of the Bible. Jesus makes it clear that we are called to take up the cross and follow Him. We are called to a life of sacrifice and self denial.

Disloyalty – Judas and Peter

When Jesus was arrested it became clear that Judas was the betrayer. The fate of Jesus was sealed with the kiss of fellowship. Judas turned Jesus over the religious leadership. The goal may have been to incite an open rebellion against the Romans but the result was Jesus going to Golgotha. The rest of the disciples also betrayed Jesus when they ran to save their own skins. Peter even openly denied that he even knew Jesus.

Solution: Obedience

Jesus calls every disciple to a lifestyle of obedience. We are not called to follow Jesus when it is convenient but to count the cost. There is never a time when following Jesus does not involve some form of risk. There might be the risk of rejection. There might be the risk of ridicule. There might be the risk of failure. There is always a risk when we seek to obey Jesus. The grace of Jesus is not cheap, it cost Him everything. Our obedience should not be cheap either, it should cost us something.

Disapproval – Disciples rebuked parents for bringing their children to Jesus

The disciples reprimand a group of parents bringing their children to Jesus for a blessing. There was a common custom for people to request rabbis to pronounce blessings on children. The attitude of the disciples was that Jesus was too busy and too important to bother with such trivial things. The Messiah was above those kinds of things.

Solution: Celebrate the ordinary

Jesus stopped the disciples and blessed the children. The point that Jesus tried to make was that there times that the ordinary should be celebrated. Many times we often take the ordinary for granted. Jesus teaches us to celebrate the ordinary in everyday living. Jesus the one and only, the extraordinary one celebrated the ordinary, we should do the same.

When Jesus calls us, He calls us to join the team, there are no solo efforts for the Kingdom of Heaven.

Prayer

Hymn One more step

Benediction

The grace of Christ Jesus who is the same today, yesterday and forever, will lead you to the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit, and then take you on to those tasks and joys which will prepare you for the greater glory which is to come. Amen!