

The Body of Christ Series

Lesson Eight: Reflection on the “Body of Christ” lesson series (demonstrating love to each other)

Biblical Text(s): Ephesians 2:13-16; Colossians 1:17-23; Romans 5:8-11; 2 Corinthians 5:16-21; Colossians 1:15-23 (NIV); Romans 12:3-7; I Corinthians 12:12-31; I Corinthians 13:1-13; Ephesians 3:21; Ephesians 5:25, Matthew 28:16-20; Romans 12: 3-8 (*verses to consider as you discuss the reflective questions*)

From the Course Introduction:

We have been studying The Gospel and how Hillcrest is involved with sharing it with the world. We have talked about it globally, locally, and within the walls of our building. Together we form a body--the body of Christ. A body of believers bound together by Christ's blood to form not an organization but a living organism.

Lesson 8 focus and reflective discussion.

Listed below are the questions we introduced at the beginning of this study. For this last lesson, it is an opportunity to reflect on what we have learned during our study of the “Body of Christ”.

It is suggested that the class reflect and discuss together the following questions. *As part of the discussion be sure and emphasize the importance of our love for each other in the Body.* Add prayer time for our congregation to grow as the Body of Christ and strive for unity in faith.

1. Why are we studying about the “Body of Christ”, and why is it essential to our salvation (eternal importance - Eph 3:21)?
2. What does it mean to be a part of the Body, and how does that help me find purpose?
3. How is the Body of Christ unique, and therefore what are the expectations?
4. How do parts of the Body work together, and how does it grow?
5. How do parts of the Body work together in community and hospitality?
6. Unity in the Body – what does this mean from a spiritual & salvation understanding?
7. What happens when the Body breaks? How are we reconciled to God and to each other?
8. How does the Body show love to its members and the world?

Essential to this reflection lesson are the two following key teaching points: (these were emphasized in the lessons.)

- Why is the Body essential, and what is the ‘Head.’
- How is the Body structured?

Conclusion

We are part of something that is eternal and of utmost importance. To be a member of the “Body of Christ” is uniquely wonderful and unbelievable. It is life changing and gives us eternal hope beyond measure. Knowing all this, how should we act and live our lives! How should we love each other as brothers and sisters in Christ!

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Reflection Thought: Where would you be if you were not here?

God has created us to be social beings. We seek out relationships. Relationships can build us up, or bring us down.

Proverbs 27:17: "As iron sharpens iron, so one person sharpens another."

vs.

I Corinthians 15:33 Do not be misled: "Bad company corrupts good character."

He also provided a framework to support healthy relationships: marriage, family, and church. Consider life without the church...what would fill that void? Where else do people seek out their closest relationships? Does being a member of the body of Christ help us avoid harmful pursuits?