

SERMON NOTES

A-PART 3: PART OF GOD'S BODY

I am made to be A PART of something bigger, but Satan wants us to be APART from each other. How do we become a PART of God's family & body? Sign a form? Say a prayer? Be religious? It is the Power of a COVENANT.

3 pictures:

1. Marriage - Covenant and ongoing relationship

Ephesians 5:29-32 (NKJV)

29 For no one ever hated his own flesh, but nourishes and cherishes it, just as the Lord does the church.

30 For we are members of His body, of His flesh and of His bones.

31 "For this reason a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh."

32 This is a great mystery, but I speak concerning Christ and the church.

Genesis 2:23-25 (NKJV)

23 And Adam said: "This is now bone of my bones And flesh of my flesh; She shall be called Woman, Because she was taken out of Man."

24 Therefore a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and they shall become one flesh.

25 And they were both naked, the man and his wife, and were not ashamed.

- Our relationship with Chrst is supposed to be like a marriage:
 - We must LEAVE previous allegiances and relationships
 - Me must be JOINED to Him in a covenant
 - We must WALK OUT this relationship in daily life.

2. A Body - involved in a local Church

1 John 5:1 (NLT)

1 Everyone who believes that Jesus is the Christ has become a child of God. And everyone who loves the Father loves his children, too.

Ephesians 4:16 (NKJV)

16 From whom the whole body, joined and knit together by what every joint supplies, according to the effective working by which every part does its share, causes growth of the body for the edifying of itself in love.

3. A tree - planted

Psalm 92:13-14 (NKJV)

13 Those who are planted in the house of the LORD Shall flourish in the courts of our God.

14 They shall still bear fruit in old age; They shall be fresh and flourishing,

4. **Closing thoughts**

1 Corinthians 6:15-20 (NKJV)

15 Do you not know that your bodies are members of Christ? Shall I then take the members of Christ and make them members of a harlot? Certainly not!

16 Or do you not know that he who is joined to a harlot is one body with her? For "the two," He says, "shall become one flesh."

17 But he who is joined to the Lord is one spirit with Him.

18 Flee sexual immorality. Every sin that a man does is outside the body, but he who commits sexual immorality sins against his own body.

19 Or do you not know that your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit who is in you, whom you have from God, and you are not your own?

20 For you were bought at a price; therefore glorify God in your body and in your spirit, which are God's.

***EMPHASIS ON - 1 Corinthians 6:17 (NKJV)**

17 But he who is joined to the Lord is one spirit with Him.

- Your Spirit is now:
 - The righteousness of God in Christ Jesus - 2 Cor 5:21 A new Creation - 2 Cor 5:17
 - Full of His power - Rom 8:10-11
 - The wisdom and mind of Christ - 1 Cor 2:13
- Have you / are you:
 - Left other allegiances to follow Him?
 - Made a Covenant vow to follow Him exclusively? Living it out in a real way?

Other verses:

- 2 Timothy 2:13 (NKJV) - If we are faithless, He remains faithful; He cannot deny Himself.
- John 10:28 (NKJV) - "And I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish; neither shall anyone snatch them out of My hand.
- Isaiah 49:15-16 (NKJV)

15 "Can a woman forget her nursing child, And not have compassion on the son of her womb? Surely they may forget, Yet I will not forget you.

16 See, I have inscribed you on the palms of My hands; Your walls are continually before Me."

- Hebrews 13:5 (NKJV)- Let your conduct be without covetousness; be content with such things as you have. For He Himself has said, "I will never leave you nor forsake you."

SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION GUIDES

Remember that the aim of the small group is to foster discussion and community, rather than for the leader or one individual to preach to everyone.

1 - Often an **Icebreaker question** is a great way to start discussion. You could ask a question like:

- What were the highs or lows of your week?
- What is your earliest memory?
- If you had to describe yourself as one animal, what would it be and why?
- What is your favourite type of holiday destination?

2 - Next, **read the passage**. You can ask various people in the group to help by each reading a portion of the passage.

3 - These are the **main questions** to ask to understand the passage:

- What is the main message of this talk / passage?
Allow discussion and even diverging from the main topic if it is helpful.
- What did you find particularly helpful or challenging?
- What did you not fully understand?
- What can we do **PRACTICALLY** in response to this teaching?

4 - Close by offering **prayer** for each person.

- Ask, "how can we pray for you / each other now?"
- Ask each person to pray for you, as leader, pray for each person's need

The blessing and opportunity in Small Groups is the possibility for...

- Each person to contribute and/or ask questions,
- People to pray for each other and to ask for prayer,
- People to learn to use and grow in their gifts,
- Community, friendship and intimacy in relationships.

God Bless you in this very important ministry