

“Built Together Part 5 - Our Healing” (9-24-23)

A discerning community

Series Review: Eph. 2:22 - In him you also are being built together into a dwelling place for God by the Spirit.

Review: Our Heart - Worshipping, **Our Nature** - Bonded, **Our Joy** - Diverse

Today: Our Healing - a Discerning Community

Romans 12:12 (ESV) - “Rejoice in hope, be patient in tribulation, be constant in prayer.”

Note: Rejoice (Hopeful), Patient (When it’s Hard), Pray - through it all!

1) See and Serve the Body

Romans 12:13 (ESV)

Contribute to the needs of the saints and seek to show hospitality.

Note: Contribute (doesn’t just mean to give - it means to have in common or share). Share in each other’s needs. Pursues opportunities to open your heart & home!

This is about living in awareness of the Body of Christ - practical application of what we have studied thus far.

Example: Krikacs when Abby was born

I can’t love, serve, and tend a body I am unaware of!

Romans 12:14-15 (ESV)

(14) Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse them. (15) Rejoice with those who rejoice, weep with those who weep.

Note: 3 scenarios of life with people - The difficult (persecuting), The happy (rejoicing), The hurting (weeping)

- The difficult - I don’t join them, instead bless not curse (speak well or don’t speak)
- The happy - join them and celebrate
- The mourning - be aware of them and hurt with them

Often we are so caught up in our moment, we can’t see the moment others are in!

Romans 12:16 (ESV)

Live in harmony with one another. Do not be haughty, but associate with the lowly. Never be wise in your own sight.

Note: When we judge, we isolate. It’s that simple. We aren’t called to judge, we are called to associate.

We tend to be very aware when this is done to us, but unaware when we are doing it to others.

Harmony - different parts of the same song, beauty is found in the complexity

Romans 12:17-18 (ESV)

(17) Repay no one evil for evil, but give thought to do what is honorable in the sight of all. (18) If possible, so far as it depends on you, live peaceably with all.

Note: Our instinct is to react in kind. If someone is cruel or hurtful - fight or flight. Give thought (look for opportunities) to do what is honorable (good & beautiful) in the sight (face) of all.

Example: Seeking to love a difficult neighbor

2) See Jesus Serve His Body

Romans 15:1-7 (ESV)

(1) We who are strong have an obligation to bear with the failings of the weak, and not to please ourselves. (2) Let each of us please his neighbor for his good, to build him up. (3) For Christ did not please himself, but as it is written, “The reproaches of those who reproached you fell on me.” (4) For whatever was written in former days was written for our instruction, that through endurance and through the encouragement of the Scriptures we might have hope. (5) May the God of endurance and encouragement grant you to live in such harmony with one another, in accord with Christ Jesus, (6) that together you may with one voice glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. (7) Therefore welcome one another as Christ has welcomed you, for the glory of God.

- See each other, bear with each other, and build each other up!
- We are given this Word for our instruction that we might be encouraged & endure
- We can do this, because this is who our God is - He is the God of encouragement & endurance

Jesus took up these words from Isaiah 61 and said this is His mission that he is fulfilling in the earth . . .

Isaiah 61:1-3 (ESV)

(1) The Spirit of the Lord GOD is upon me, because the LORD has anointed me to bring good news to the poor; he has sent me to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and the opening of the prison to those who are bound; (2) to proclaim the year of the LORD's favor, and the day of vengeance of our God; to comfort all who mourn; (3) to grant to those who mourn in Zion— to give them a beautiful headdress instead of ashes, the oil of gladness instead of mourning, the garment of praise instead of a faint spirit; that they may be called oaks of righteousness, the planting of the LORD, that he may be glorified.

Isaiah 61:4 (ESV)

(4) They shall build up the ancient ruins; they shall raise up the former devastations; they shall repair the ruined cities, the devastations of many generations.

Isaiah 61:11 (ESV)

(11) For as the earth brings forth its sprouts, and as a garden causes what is sown in it to sprout up, so the Lord GOD will cause righteousness and praise to sprout up before all the nations.

Note: The Lord does it - His people are healed and grow - The nations come and see!

This is God's mission & when we grasp this vision and participate in it (Romans 12 is a practical application of this), then we Glorify Jesus by caring about His Body - We participate in this powerful healing process, and we are built up so that we might have an impact in a hurting world.

And it all starts by seeing and caring for our brother or sister in Christ

3) Communion - Let's practice Seeing and Serving

1 Corinthians 11:28-32 (ESV)

(28) Let a person examine himself, then, and so eat of the bread and drink of the cup. (29) For anyone who eats and drinks without discerning the body eats and drinks judgment on himself. (30) That is why many of you are weak and ill, and some have died. (31) But if we judged ourselves truly, we would not be judged. (32) But when we are judged by the Lord, we are disciplined so that we may not be condemned along with the world.

Their issues: divisions, selfishness, some hungry, some drunk, humiliating the poor

Let's discern the body, and participate in the healing Jesus is longing to bring!