

Small Groups @ TBC Sermon Discussion Notes

Date of Sermon: November 18th 2018

Speaker: Paul Ferguson

Title: The Body of Christ

Introduction: This talk engaged with the picture that Paul painted of the church as a body, but it was more than a mere illustration but a description of the church's life bound up in Christ. The two big ideas are unity and yet diversity. 1 Corinthians 12: 12 - 30.

Review: Invite one or more who have heard the talk to give their own brief review.

Read: 1 Corinthians 12: 12 - 30

Discuss as a group

- Verse 12 outlines the main idea of the passage but it has an unusual ending. Rather than ending: 'so it is with the church'. It ends: 'so it is with Christ'. Consider how being 'in Christ' frees us to serve others?
- Verse 13 Paul state the reason for unity and diversity. We were born by the same Spirit and we have been blessed or empowered by the same Spirit. Explore why the Spirits activity brings both unity and diversity?
- In the talk we consider how other influences pressed in on the Corinthian Christians. The prevailing culture, the philosophy of the day and their broken image all fed into the disharmony amongst them. We live in a highly individualistic culture, and people are desperate for status. Consider how the host culture we live in affects the way we function as Christians and church?
- Read again (v 14-24) Paul's humorous description of the conversation between the body parts. If God has arranged the parts of the body as they are meant to be (18) how might this help us as we serve on another?
- Sharing in joys and sorrows is part of being in the body. How can we rejoice with others when we are feeling sorrowful? Reflect back on the work of the Spirit in birthing and blessing us.
- Read verse 29. This could seem a hieratical list but in the light of the passage how might we read it?
- Consider how we can use our gifts in service of others?

Leaders: feel free to be selective and creative with your use of these notes. **Don't feel you have to use all of the material**, but do try to keep the shape of Review – Read – Reflect – Respond and **DO make room for the 'And Finally' questions!**
www.thornburybaptistchurch.org.uk

Thornbury Baptist Church:

Following the Way of Jesus: Loving God – Loving One Another – Loving Neighbour & World

- Spend time praying for one another for the Spirit to release into all that he has called us to be.
- Encourage one another.

Reflect: And finally:

As you conclude, ask each person:

- What is the main thing you are taking away as an action point?
- How can we pray for you?
- Is there anything we can check on next time we meet?

Leaders: feel free to be selective and creative with your use of these notes. **Don't feel you have to use all of the material**, but do try to keep the shape of Review – Read – Reflect – Respond and **DO make room for the 'And Finally' questions!**
www.thornburybaptistchurch.org.uk