

UNPACKING THE WORD

MAY 31, 2020 SERMON - PENTECOST SUNDAY 2020

"I AM A CHURCH MEMBER - PART 2" I COR. 12,13,14

PAUL'S METAPHOR OF THE HUMAN BODY TEACHING US THE BODY OF CHRIST FIGURES PROMINENTLY IN THIS SERIES. WE ALL HAVE A PART TO PLAY IN THE UNIVERSAL BODY OF CHRIST, BUT ALSO IN THE LOCAL CHURCH BODY. WE ARE USING AS OUR TEMPLATE FOR THIS SERIES, THOM RAINER'S BOOK OF SAME TITLE.

(PLEASE LISTEN TO THE POINTS DEVELOPED IN THE SERMON. YOU ARE ABLE TO LISTEN RIGHT NOW ON THIS SITE. SIMPLY FIND SERMONS AND OFF YOU GO.)

- 1. MEMBERSHIP MEANS WE ARE ALL NECESSARY PARTS OF THE WHOLE - RAINER SAYS, "SOME CHURCH LEADERS AND MEMBERS VIEW MEMBERSHIP AS A MODERN BUSINESS OR ORGANIZATIONAL CONCEPT, SO THEY REJECT THE LABEL AS UNBIBLICAL. MEMBERSHIP, TO THE CONTRARY, IS VERY BIBLICAL."**
- 2. MEMBERSHIP MEANS WE ARE DIFFERENT BUT WE STILL WORK TOGETHER - RAINER CONTRASTS CLUB MEMBERSHIP WITH CHURCH MEMBERSHIP. IN A CHURCH, EVERYBODY IS DEPENDENT ON THE OTHER DOING THEIR JOB LIKE TITHING, GIVING, SERVING, ETC.**
- 3. MEMBERSHIP MEANS EVERYTHING WE SAY AND DO IS BASED ON A BIBLICAL FOUNDATION OF LOVE - I COR 13 WAS**

ORIGINALLY INTENDED NOT FOR WEDDINGS, BUT TO DESCRIBE THE LOCAL CHURCH.

- 4. CHURCH MEMBERSHIP IS FUNCTIONING MEMBERSHIP - BIBLICAL CHURCH MEMBERSHIP IS UNLIKE WHAT MANY PEOPLE TAKE TO BE MEMBERSHIP.**

AT THE CONCLUSION OF EACH CHAPTER, THERE IS A PLEDGE. HERE IS THE CURRENT ONE.

"I AM A CHURCH MEMBER

I LIKE THE METAPHOR OF MEMBERSHIP. IT'S NOT MEMBERSHIP AS IN A CIVIC ORGANIZATION OR A COUNTRY CLUB. IT'S THE KIND OF MEMBERSHIP GIVEN TO US IN I CORINTHIANS 12: "NOW YOU ARE THE BODY OF CHRIST, AND INDIVIDUAL MEMBERS OF IT" (I CORINTHIANS 12:27). BECAUSE I AM A MEMBER OF THE BODY OF CHRIST, I MUST BE A FUNCTIONING MEMBER, WHETHER I AM AN "EYE," AN "EAR," OR A "HAND." AS A FUNCTIONING MEMBER, I WILL GIVE. I WILL SERVE. I WILL MINISTER. I WILL EVANGELIZE. I WILL STUDY. I WILL SEEK TO BE A BLESSING TO OTHERS. I WILL REMEMBER THAT "IF ONE MEMBER SUFFERS, ALL THE MEMBERS SUFFER WITH IT; IF ONE MEMBER IS HONORED, ALL THE MEMBERS REJOICE WITH IT" (I CORINTHIANS 12:26)" (RAINER, 2013).

AMEN