

1 Corinthians 14:16-17

¹⁶ Isn't the cup of blessing that we bless a sharing in the blood of Christ? Isn't the loaf of bread that we break a sharing in the body of Christ? ¹⁷ Since there is one loaf of bread, we who are many are one body, because we all share the one loaf of bread.

When I think about the world we live in, the one descriptive word that always comes to mind is "division".

Every where – at **Every level** – and NOW days – over **EVERY thing**. And we now – when we don't agree, when there is division – somewhere we got the sad idea that the proper way to address our differences is to attack one another or to simply sever all relationship.

And that kind of division goes against the images that the Apostle Paul gave us – the idea that the Church is the Body of Christ and everyone has a place and a role in the Body.

When he really spells that out he said you have part of the body that are visible and parts that are not. But you need both. And he said that if you are an ear you can't say that noses or eyes aren't important because you still need them – and they are better with you as well.

But the way division works is sort of like those exercise memes with the person with a well-developed body from the waist up. And scrawny legs that you wonder how they function – and the caption is almost always, don't forget let day.

But I guess Paul says it's worse than that – I guess in Paul's analogy – the upper body would say we are amazing and near perfect – we don't need those legs at all. And removes them.

That's not the way it's supposed to be.

So Paul tells us that the Lord's table – is a place for the whole body to come together. Just like Jesus prayed right after he served communion for the very first time – he prayed to the Father that his disciples "**may all be one.**"

One Sunday morning a lady confided in her pastor that she had invited her family and relatives to dinner the night before. She had sacrificed many long hours planning and preparing the meal in the hope that the family could enjoy their time together. But her hopes were smashed and her hard work was made futile as family tensions, petty jealousies and ridiculous bickering caused everyone to leave early. The young lady was in tears as she told her pastor, "It seems that the more we are together, the further we drift apart. Why can't we just enjoy the fact that we are a family and love each other in spite of our differences?"

The Lord's table is the place of unity and solidarity and oneness. Where we are all reminded that we are connected to one another – because **we are connected through the sacrificial love of Jesus.**

This morning – as we prepare our hearts to receive communion – maybe our prayer should be to ask God to help us put all bickering, pettiness and anger aside, to stop focusing on how many ways we can be divided, and to ask God to help us build unity in our world, in our church, in families.