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Series: Connected

Message Title: Come Together!

Message & Scripture Highlights:

Have a few people read the following scriptures:

Hebrews 10:24-25

And let us consider *and* give attentive, continuous care to watching over one another, studying how we may stir up (stimulate and incite) to love *and* helpful deeds *and* noble activities,
²⁵ Not forsaking *or* neglecting to assemble together [as believers], as is the habit of some people, but admonishing (warning, urging, and encouraging) one another, and all the more faithfully as you see the day approaching.

1 Peter 5:8-9

Be sober, be alert and cautious at all times. That enemy of yours, the devil, prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour.

⁹ But resist him, be firm in faith [against his attack—rooted, established, immovable], knowing that the same experiences of suffering are being experienced by your brothers and sisters throughout the world. [You do not suffer alone.]

Discussion Part 1:

Look with renewed focus at the term “one another” in the Hebrews 10 reading. Are you able to identify your specific assignment to “one another”? If you know who you are assigned to, then speak to who you are NOT assigned to. Is that painful?

S.Marshall thoughts:

You and I are called to be alert, cautious, sober. That means dealing with the reality of every situation. In other words, not giving into the ostrich, head-in-the-sand mentality. When the enemy (the devil) wants to ruin, stop, stall, hurt, attack your life, he uses a person. God would not tell us to “resist the devil” if it wasn’t possible. Being properly connected to God’s family sets you up to be rooted and firm in faith.

Have someone read:

Matthew 16:16-18

Simon Peter replied, You are the Christ, the Son of the living God.

¹⁷ Then Jesus answered him, Blessed are you, Simon Bar-Jonah. For flesh and blood have not revealed this to you, but My Father Who is in heaven.

¹⁸ And I tell you, you are Peter [a large piece of rock], and on this rock I will build My church, and the gates of Hades shall not overpower it [or be strong to hold out against it].

1 Corinthians 12:12-20

For just as the body is a unity and yet has many parts, and all the parts, though many, form [only] one body, so it is with Christ.

¹³ For by one Spirit we were all baptized into one body— whether Jews or Greeks, whether slaves or free—and have all been made to drink into one Spirit.

¹⁴ For the body does not consist of one limb *or* organ but of many.

¹⁵ If the foot should say, Because I am not the hand, I do not belong to the body, would it be therefore not [a part] of the body?

¹⁶ And if the ear should say, “Because I am not an eye, I am not of the body,” is it therefore not of the body?

¹⁷ If the whole body were an eye, where would be the hearing? If the whole body were an ear, where would the sense of smell be?

¹⁸ But now God has set the members, each one of them, in the body just as He pleased.

¹⁹ And if the whole were all a single organ, where would the body be?

²⁰ But now indeed there are many members, yet one body.

Discussion Part 2:

Why do you think the enemy would trick God’s people into trying to build the church? Remember Jesus never told us to build His church. He told us to make disciples (Matthew 28:19). The King is the only one qualified to make the necessary appointments for His ecclesia. Talk about this, if believers weren’t distracted by the futility of trying to build the church, would we and could we be more focused on mentoring and encouraging one another?

Stephen Marshall Thoughts:

I learn so much from Paul’s analogy in 1 Corinthians 12 of the body of Christ. Worldly culture pushes toward uniformity and group-think, but this picture inspired by the Holy Spirit speaks of great diversity, and yet perfect unity. Aren’t you glad your fingers are completely different than your eyes? God is the Master Builder. Let’s face it, if building the church were left up to us it would be a monster. God places us and fits us together. He is the Author and Finisher of our faith. Praise God!

Life Application:

Within the trusted circle of your Life Group, find out who actively has a mentor in their life. Everybody needs a mentor. Identify qualified mentors within your group. Remember we all need specialists for the different areas of our lives. If someone in the LG does not have a mentor then let’s help and pursue Biblical discipleship now.

Now Pray The Word:

Get someone (or a few people) to lead out in prayer based on the Truth talked about. Pray according to the above scriptures:

“Father God You have called us to watch over one another and not forsake gathering together to worship You. We want to put You first in our lives. Build us and fit us perfectly into Your body, Your church. Help us to realize You don’t consider a building Your church. You are building and shaping us into Your Body of Believers, by Your precious Holy Spirit. That’s the church Jesus said

the gates of hell would not be able stand against. Give us a new appreciation for the unique assignment and calling of each other. As different as an eye is from a foot, is the genius of our diversity from each other so help us not to try and diminish or criticize those differences. It would grieve Your heart for us to despise our unique callings. (Continue to pray specifically for one another's needs ...)