

FOCUS

- THE CHURCH IS THE HOPE OF THE WORLD...
 - Healthy
 - Vibrant
 - Operating at FULL CAPACITY
 - With ALL its members engaged & fully functioning caring the gospel message to a dying world...

1 Corinthians 12:14-26 Yes, the body has many different parts, not just one part. **15** If the foot says, “I am not a part of the body because I am not a hand,” that does not make it any less a part of the body. **16** And if the ear says, “I am not part of the body because I am not an eye,” would that make it any less a part of the body? **17** If the whole body were an eye, how would you hear? Or if your whole body were an ear, how would you smell anything? **18** But our bodies have many parts, and God has put each part just where he wants it. **19** How strange a body would be if it had only one part! **20** Yes, there are many parts, but only one body. **21** The eye can never say to the hand, “I don’t need you.” The head can’t say to the feet, “I don’t need you.” **22** In fact, some parts of the body that seem weakest and least important are actually the most necessary. **23** And the parts we regard as less honorable are those we clothe with the greatest care. So we carefully protect those parts that should

not be seen, **24** while the more honorable parts do not require this special care. So God has put the body together such that extra honor and care are given to those parts that have less dignity. **25** This makes for harmony among the members, so that all the members care for each other. **26** If one part suffers, all the parts suffer with it, and if one part is honored, all the parts are glad

- Jesus said, “I will build MY CHURCH”

Matthew 16: 13-18 When Jesus came to the region of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, “Who do people say that the Son of Man is?” **14** “Well,” they replied, “some say John the Baptist, some say Elijah, and others say Jeremiah or one of the other prophets.” **15** Then he asked them, “But who do you say I am?” **16** Simon Peter answered, “**You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God.**” **17** Jesus replied, “You are blessed, Simon son of John, because my Father in heaven has revealed this to you. You did not learn this from any human being. **18** Now I say to you that you are Peter (which means ‘rock’), and **upon this rock I will build my church, and all the powers of hell will not conquer it.**

1. The revelation of Jesus as the “Messiah as the son of the living God”

- a. “...upon this STONE” ...Cornerstone (sacred & essential)
- b. With this revelation the church is **INVINCIBLE**

2. What are WE gathered to do?_

- a. **To Encounter God's presence** (encounter: to meet, especially unexpectedly)
 - i. **Revelation** of God, leads to **Salvation**, which begins the **Transformation (changed/changing)**

- b. **To Experience God's family** (experience: a personal and practical knowledge gained)
 - i. **A new people, A new spiritual family, A new community (societal implication on justice and equality are powerful)**

Acts 2:44-45 And all the believers met together in one place and shared everything they had. **45** They sold their property and possessions and shared the money with those in need.

ii. Meeting & Eating

Acts 2:46 They worshiped together at the Temple each day, met in homes for the Lord's Supper, and shared their meals with great joy and generosity

c. **Engage** God's mission together. (Zacchaeus is saved – a scandalous grace) **Luke 19:1-10**

i. Each member utilizing their gifts for the common good.

1 Corinthians 12:7 A spiritual gift is given to each of us so we can help each other.

Question: How does your church benefit & get stronger with your GIFTS....not your interests, or self promoting desires.... YOUR GIFT – glorifies Jesus and lifts HIM up...and it BLESSES OTHERS.

ii. As we serve & care for ONE another (humanity) we find the most elusive of prizes – Fulfillment, Purpose, Meaning, Deep Satisfaction/Contentment....as we together engage the mission of God

iii. Living and giving to something bigger than ourselves...self sacrifice...we find our lives

