

## **GOING DEEPER STUDY NOTES** (October 17, 2021)

FOR PERSONAL OR GROUP STUDY

This morning we welcome our friend Craig Hooper to Grace of Christ. Craig is the Senior Area Director for Yakima Valley Young Life. He began working for Young Life the day it began, October 16, 1941. Little known fact about Craig: throughout the year he lives at the Young Life Booth at the Central Washington Fairgrounds.

80 years ago (minus one day) Jim Rayburn, a Presbyterian minister, founded the Young Life Organization. The goal was to reach kids (the vast majority were not attending church) with the love of Jesus. Rayburn often said, "We believe it is sinful to bore kids with the gospel. Christ is the strongest, grandest, most attractive personality to ever grace the earth."

The Yakima Valley Young Life website includes these two statements:

1. Inviting Young People to Experience Life as God Designed it To Be Lived.

2. Everyone Deserves to Belong Somewhere ... We Believe That Somewhere is Here.

Connections between Grace of Christ and Young Life run deep. We financially support Craig and his team (individually and as a church), many pray regularly for leaders and kids involved, others from Grace volunteer to work at the Young Life booth each fall, over the years some have led, or assisted with, clubs and campaigner groups, and there are those from Grace who helped build, improve or support Malibu camp (Canada) and Big Muddy Washington Family Camp (Oregon).

The Need is great because every kid matters to God.

The passage this morning from 1 Corinthians 12 challenges all of us to pursue unity with other Christians (regardless of denomination or location). Every Christian is part of the Body of Christ ... Jesus is the Head of the body. We need each other! We are better Together!

### **Mission Sunday: We Belong Together** (Coconuts and the Sound of Music)

(SERMON PASSAGE: 1 Corinthians 12:12-31, only verses 12-20 included below)

"<sup>12</sup> For just as the body is one and has many members, and all the members of the body, though many, are one body, so it is with Christ. <sup>13</sup> For in one Spirit we were all baptized into one body — Jews or Greeks, slaves or free — and all were made to drink of one Spirit.

<sup>14</sup> For the body does not consist of one member but of many. <sup>15</sup> If the foot should say, "Because I am not a hand, I do not belong to the body," that would not make it any less a part of the body. <sup>16</sup> And if the ear should say, "Because I am not an eye, I do not belong to the body," that would not make it any less a part of the body. <sup>17</sup> If the whole body were an eye, where would be the sense of hearing? If the whole body were an ear, where would be the sense of smell? <sup>18</sup> But as it is, God arranged the members in the body, each one of them, as he chose. <sup>19</sup> If all were a single member, where would the body be? <sup>20</sup> As it is, there are many parts, yet one body."

### **WHAT DOES IT SAY?**

1. What word picture (image) does Paul use here to describe the Christian church?
2. What different parts are listed here as Paul talks about the Body of Christ? How valuable is each of these parts?
3. What does Paul say would happen if every Christian had the same role, the same gift and responsibility, in the church?

### **WHAT DOES IT MEAN?**

4. Why would Paul use the body as an illustration of the Church?
5. In what ways have you seen various parts of the body (Christian community) dismiss or diminish others in the Church? What was the result?
6. Read verses 21-31. What does Paul mean by "greater honor"?

### **WHAT IS GOD SAYING TO YOU?**

7. How would you describe the Christian Church? Are some in the church more valuable than others? Discuss
8. How can you personally work for unity in the Church? Are there boundaries that define who is and who isn't a Christian?
9. Read verses 27-30. What is your God-given gift? How are you using that gift right now? Discuss.
10. When Christians suffer, do you? When they rejoice, do you?

Notes: \_\_\_\_\_

Spend time in silence, praying (even if just for a moment or two). Prayer is simply a conversation with God. Be honest. If you don't know how or what to pray admit that and ask God to help you pray. Ask God to help you be a voice, and a life, dedicated to unity among Christians. Ask God to help you see the value in each person in the church. Pray for ways to honor others at Grace of Christ. Ask for humility and compassion. God loves us, and He will help us.