

•I love the church. Our church. I don't know what comes to mind or what you feel when you hear the word church, but chances are it is a far cry from what the first church people thought or experienced.

•Nobody was bored in the first century. They didn't think building, rows, pews, robes, hymnals, bands, etc. No Bibles, bands, or banners.

•The church was simply a gathering of people who came together around one belief: that Jesus was the risen Christ, the son of the living God. That was all they had. That was enough. The church was a movement.

☑ **The Church**

•*The Greek term translated church in the Greek New Testament is: Ecclesia – an assembly or gathering. But the English term, church, comes from an entirely different Greek term meaning “of the Lord” picked up and adapted by the Goths, an East Germanic Tribe, around 300 AD. Kirche – Lord’s house. Phonetically, in English, sounds like church.*

•*This really bad translation created some really bad theology. The church became a place, rather than a movement or gathering. It was tamed. Localized. Controlled by the people who controlled the building.*

•*Then in the sixteenth century, a scholar named William Tyndale did something bold. William Tyndale, often referred to as the “Father of the English Bible,” translated and published the Bible in English from the original Greek and Hebrew texts. He was hung and burned at the stake in 1536.*

•***One of the things that drove the church leaders of his day crazy was that he translated Ecclesia as “congregation” rather than “church,” moving the focus from a building to the people.***

• **Even today we find people who are more passionate over buildings than they are the people in them, or NOT in them.**

•**Our first home. Didn't care for the structure. The MEMORIES!**

•**This building is not CityGate Church...**

•**Early Church- You couldn't go to church; you were the church.**

•The church wasn't for *church* people . . . there weren't any.

•The church wasn't about a location . . . there wasn't one.

•The church wasn't about style or ritual . . . there weren't any.

•The mission of the church was to do one thing: **create followers of Jesus Christ. To See the everyone is going to Heaven.**

☑ **There has ALWAYS been a people...**

•People like you who give and serve and invite and cheer when someone is baptized.

•People who realized that when you gather in your home or office, you are the church.

•People who realized that when you serve the poor, you are the church.

• . . . when you pray for the sick . . .

• . . . when you live out the values of Jesus and you feel like an outcast in your fraternity, sorority, office, or home, you are the church.

•It's why we continue to create more gathering places. Raise money. Train leaders.

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We are the church.

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We don't exist for us. We exist for everyone around us!

•**Atheism has never built a hospital, been the first to respond with supplies after disaster, Or offered hope to the HOPELESS. It's the CHURCH. The BODY!**

☑ **THE BODY**

•We go to an athletic event where there are several players on one team. And while they have different positions to play and differing skills, that very fact is the source of their unity and the thing that makes it possible for them to play the game.

•The same is true when we go to the symphony. There is great variety in the instruments played and the skills required of the players, but all those instruments and all those different musicians create a musical unity as they give a concert. Because they are playing in rhythm, their differences are not their weaknesses. Rather their strength.

•**Mission Control... ALL SYSTEMS GO!**

•***1 Corinthians 12:12-13 You can easily enough see how this kind of thing works by looking no further than your own body. Your body has many***

parts—limbs, organs, cells—but no matter how many parts you can name, you're still one body. It's exactly the same with Christ. By means of his one Spirit, we all said good-bye to our partial and piecemeal lives. We each used to independently call our own shots, but then we entered into a large and integrated life in which he has the final say in everything. (This is what we proclaimed in word and action when we were baptized.)

•**Step Up!**

•**Take the Plunge- Sept. 22**

•Each of us is now a part of his resurrection body, refreshed and sustained at one fountain—his Spirit—where we all come to drink. The old labels we once used to identify ourselves—labels like Jew or Greek, slave or free—are no longer useful. We need something larger, more comprehensive.

✓ **4 Signs of a healthy Body.**

•**Anything alive is Growing.**

•As long as Heaven/hell exist, growth is not an option.

•GIVE ME 2 out of 52!

•**Anything alive has an Appetite.**

•How hungry are you for God?

•**Anything alive has Discharge.**

•Don't play in your poop. Everyone here today isn't destined to be here forever.

•**Anything alive should be Reproducing.**

•Through intimacy.

•14-18 I want you to think about how all this makes you more significant, not less. A body isn't just a single part blown up into something huge. It's all the different-but-similar parts arranged and functioning together. If Foot said, "I'm not elegant like Hand, embellished with rings; I guess I don't belong to this body," would that make it so? If Ear said, "I'm not beautiful like Eye, limpid and expressive; I don't deserve a place on the head," would you want to remove it from the body? If the body was all

eye, how could it hear? If all ear, how could it smell? As it is, we see that God has carefully placed each part of the body right where he wanted it.

•19-24 But I also want you to think about how this keeps your significance from getting blown up into self-importance. For no matter how significant you are, it is only because of what you are a part of.

• *Drs. serving next to someone that never grad HS.*

• **What I Am A Part Of Is BIGGER Than The Part I Play.**

•**Before there was a YOU, there was a thing for YOU to DO!**

•An enormous eye or a gigantic hand wouldn't be a body, but a monster. What we have is one body with many parts, each its proper size and in its proper place. No part is important on its own. Can you imagine Eye telling Hand, "Get lost; I don't need you"? Or, Head telling Foot, "You're fired; your job has been phased out"? As a matter of fact, in practice it works the other way—the "lower" the part, the more basic, and therefore necessary.

•**God uses Stars and Candles to light His Kingdom.**

•**Just because I'm the most noticed doesn't mean I'm the most necessary.**

•Ministry in the church does not rest on status but rather service.

•The music leader is no more important than the diaper changer.

•You can live without an eye, for instance, but not without a stomach. When it's a part of your own body you are concerned with, it makes no difference whether the part is visible or clothed, higher or lower. You give it dignity and honor just as it is, without comparisons. If anything, you have more concern for the lower parts than the higher. If you had to choose, wouldn't you prefer good digestion to full-bodied hair?

•25-26 The way God designed our bodies is a model for understanding our lives together as a church: every part dependent on every other part, the parts we mention and the parts we don't, the parts we see and the parts we don't. If one part hurts, every other part is involved in the hurt, and in the healing. If one part flourishes, every other part enters into the exuberance.

•27 You are Christ's body— that's who you are! You must never forget this. Only as you accept your part of that body does your "part" mean anything.

•Hand is significant because of what it's connected to.

•Maybe it's time to LIVE my LIFE doing SOMETHING that MATTERS.

•Everyday your opportunity gets a little smaller.

•So teach us to number our days, that we may gain a heart of wisdom.

Psalm 90:12

•What really Matters?

•God Matters.

•People Matter.

•Eternity Matters.

•God show me!