

The Body Of Christ

Hope Chapel Tokorozawa

1Corinthians 12:12-31

“Now you are the body of Christ and individually members of it. And God has appointed in the church first apostles, second prophets, third teachers, then miracles, then gifts of healing, helping, administrating, and various kinds of tongues.”

(1Corinthians 12:27-28, ESV)

Introduction

Another book I read on my vacation was called LeaderShift by Don Cousins (Cook 2008) in which the author talked about four common misconceptions about leadership in the church: how success should be measured, the right motivation for Christian service, who should get the credit or the blame, and the real place and value of human organization. It is this fourth area where Cousins affirms something we try to do here at Hope Tokorozawa: entrust leadership and authority to those who fulfill Ephesians 4:11 equipping roles.

1. Unity comes through the Holy Spirit. (vv.12-13)

a) The Holy Spirit gives us a diversity of gifts, roles and abilities in the unity of one body.

b) This unity in the Holy Spirit is above all social status—race, economics or gender.

2. God's purposes behind uniting us in Christ Jesus. (vv.12-26)

a) God has made us one that we might belong to and need one another.

b) God has made us one that we might honor, respect and care for one another.

3. God-given membership, function and authority. (vv.27-31)

a) God has appointed certain members of His body to lead and serve in certain ways.

b) It is righteous to desire to become of greater use to God and a greater blessing to others.

Conclusion

It is not by accident nor by an impersonal fate that you and I are in relationship with one another, for God has brought us together according to His purpose and plan.

For our prayerful study, discussion and application

1. How do verses 18-26 here apply to you?
2. How does the organization of God in verses 27-28 compare with your church?
3. What do you think are the greater gifts Paul is speaking of in verses 27-31?

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