

Second Hand Preacher

Pentecost

May 14, 2016

1 Corinthians 12:3b-7, 12-13

The human body is an amazing entity. They are such complex structures of bone, tissue, and fluids. We continually find out more about our bodies. Science can tell us much about the human. Some, though, is hidden only to be revealed by the author of life. Bodies can be pushed to the limit in order to perform at a high level. Bodies are our earthly home that shelters us. We must nourish the body with water, food, and rest. The body can be vulnerable to disease, injury, and wear and tear. Medical people care for our bodies. We only have one body so we better care for it.

St. Paul uses the body as an analogy for the church. All living bodies have a head. Jesus Christ is the head of the body of the church. All may be parts of the body and the parts of the body are one. The Holy Spirit is what gives life to the body. The Spirit gives us life as a gift. Just as God breathed into the bodies of Adam and Eve, giving them life, so God's Spirit breathes into the Church giving this body life. The human body needs water to sustain it, but the members of the church need to drink of the one Spirit. Paul used these examples to help the Corinthians structure the body of their local church. They needed to be more open to all members. The community was neglecting the poor and some members were more equal than others.

We need to look at the gifts of the members of our community, as well. I pray we can treat others with dignity and recognize them as part of the body. We are to be there for everyone. I think it is easy to love the more dedicated or more generous. We need to focus on the whole body. When we evangelize, we often think of those outside the Church. What really needs to happen is that we evangelize from within. We need to share our stories and even more import, listen to theirs. People want to be heard, so that they can feel like they are more a part of the Body of Christ.