The Church: Unity and Diversity

1 Corinthians 12:12-20

Week of September 13, 2020

I. Our Unity in Jesus Christ
How is the community of faith in Jesus like a physical body?

How does Paul describe our unity in 1 Corinthians 12:13?

What kind of work does the Holy Spirit do on our lives before we come to trust in Jesus as Saviour and what kind of work does the Spirit do after?

What do the following verses tell us about this?
John 16:8, John 16:13, Romans 8:16

How is the Holy Spirit limited in our lives?

Why do we limit the Holy Spirit in this way?

What two sets of people are mentioned in 1 Corinthians 12:13 that were quite far from one another and brought together in Jesus?

What are the things that divide us today and potentially keep us separate from each other, even as followers of Jesus?

II. Our Diversity in Jesus Christ
Read 1 Corinthians 12:14. Paul has made a point of the unity of the church. What is the point that Paul makes in this verse?

What is the diversity that is found in our church family?

Put 1 Corinthians 12:15-16 in your own words.

Why does a foot or ear say that about themselves? What are these statements telling you about a person that makes this statement?

What is the point that Paul is making in 1 Corinthians 12:17?

How have you heard these statements of worthlessness and inadequacy and insecurity come from Christians?

Why is comparing ourselves to others not a good thing?

What, again, is the advantage that 1 Corinthians 12:17 points out for not everyone being a hand or an eye?

III. The Key Characteristic: Love
Whom does Paul say is the one who directs the placing of the various parts of the body? Why is that a good thing?

What part does God play in who we are? Note Psalm 139:13, 16

What happens to the talents and abilities we have when we come to Jesus Christ as our Saviour and Lord?

What is a spiritual gift? What does 1 Corinthians 12:7 tell us about these spiritual gifts?

What perspective does 1 Corinthians 12:11 give to us?

How does the diversity found in the body of Jesus Christ assist us in having the church be all that God wants it to be?