**Message Notes**

**All In the Family – Part 6 of 6**

**Becoming a Family Together**

**1 Corinthians 12:12-27**

We talk about being a church family. But we often don’t live or respond as family. Instead, we view our church community as a metaphorical family. Because of this shift, the church has become less effective because we have lost the ability to be so deeply invested in one another.

**1 Corinthians 12:26** “**If one part suffers, all the parts suffer with it, and if one part is honored, all the parts are glad.”**

Families embrace empathy. Empathy is action-oriented investment. We often lead out of sympathy, rather than empathy because we don’t have a deep-seated love that Paul is referencing in 1 Corinthians 12:26. What defines us as a family is not a church that prays passively but a community that actively partners with God in redeeming this kingdom on earth. A family that lives into the words of **1 Corinthians 4:20,** “**For the kingdom of God is not a matter of talk but of power.”**

The Greek word for power is dynamis which involves action. It is a a manifestation of God’s glory on display. This is empathy at work. However, in the church this power is not seen because there are too many divisions. We spend so much of our time fighting one another (within the global and local church) over minor issues rather than focusing on energy on what unites us, our faith in Jesus Christ.

**1 Corinthians 12:12-27**

We are one body. We are of one mind and one spirit; we’ve been baptized into the family of God. A family isn’t about those distinctions, in God’s eyes, what determines His family is those who choose to follow and become like Jesus together. While the family is one, it is also many different parts. There isn’t one part that is more significant or important. Each part has a distinct purpose and is vitally important to the functioning of the body.

We may not always agree but we are a family united in Jesus, and each part, each person, brings a different expression of what it looks like to be faithful to doing the will of God by loving other in community and the world around us. Until we actually become a family, not just family-like…we won’t be able to make a significant impact or difference in the world around us. Satan wins when we are divided. The kingdom of God wins when we are united in purpose and in following the mission of Jesus.

How can we become a family that embodies action-oriented empathy and demonstrates the majestic power of the kingdom of God redeeming and restoring the world around us?

1. You have to be committed.
2. You get personal.
3. You get vulnerable

A family doesn’t sit back and wait for change if someone is suffering. A family intervenes and responds. As the church we can’t wait and hope for change to happen. We are the change. And we can only be this change…if we first become the family. A family not divided but a family united together Jesus.