

Sunday, January 7, 2018 – Epiphany Sunday

Sermon: The Body of Christ

Read I Corinthians 10:14-18



There is a church in San Diego which had a statue of Jesus outside of the church. Vandals broke the hands off of the statue. Instead of repairing the statue a sign was placed with the statue saying that Jesus has no hands but ours? As disciples of Jesus we need to remember what it means to be His disciple. Last week we read about how if anyone is in Christ they are a new creation. This morning we read about being the Body of Christ. We are to be the hands of Jesus.



As the Body of Christ, we need to reach out to those who it is that Jesus loves. Of course, Jesus loves everyone so that does not limit things for us. It does mean that we break out of our isolation and look at the people around us. It is good to look around and see people and realize that Jesus loves them. It can be very easy to be judgmental towards others. We want to feel superior to others, but the truth is that Jesus loves all of us and in that we are equal. One of the first songs we probably learned was Jesus Loves Me, which reminds us we are all special in His sight.



As we see people and realize that Jesus loves them then we need to be a servant to them. Jesus came as a servant. He did not come to have others serve Him. He is Lord of the universe and could have demanded that He be served, but instead He showed us the value in serving. Jesus lived a life giving of Himself. When we read the Gospels, we see how He gave Himself to other people. Even in the times that He wanted time to rest when people came to Him Jesus would meet their needs before His own. The Lord of all came to serve. It is up to us as His Body to keep serving.



We are to show the love of Jesus in how we live. As we allow ourselves to be conformed to the image of Christ we will have more of His love in us. An interesting thing about love is that the more we love the more love we have. When we give of ourselves we are meeting our purpose in life. We are made in the image of God. God is love, and we really are made to love others. Just like Jesus loves us we are to love others. That means we love unconditionally. It is not up to us to decide who to love, it is just our job to love.

Mark Hall of Casting Crowns has written a great song about what it means for us to be the Body of Christ.

If We are the Body

It's crowded in worship today, as she slips in trying to fade into the faces.
The girls teasing laughter is carrying farther than they know, farther than they know.

But if we are the body, why aren't His arms reaching?
Why aren't His hands healing? Why aren't His words teaching?
And if we are the body, why aren't His feet going?
Why is His love not showing them there is a way? Jesus is the way

A traveler is far away from home. He sheds his coat and quietly sinks into the back row.
The weight of their judgmental glances, tells him that his chances, are better out on the road.

But if we are the body, why aren't His arms reaching?
Why aren't His hands healing? Why aren't His words teaching?
And if we are the body, why aren't His feet going?
Why is His love not showing them there is a way? Jesus is the way

Jesus paid much too high a price, for us to pick and choose who should come.
And we are the body of Christ.

But if we are the body, why aren't His arms reaching?
Why aren't His hands healing? Why aren't His words teaching?
And if we are the body, why aren't His feet going?
Why is His love not showing them there is a way?
Jesus is the way!