

Church: What Kind of Hospital?

S.R. Ephesians 4:11 - 16

2 – 12 – 23

Introduction

- A. God has brought His children together as His family.
 - 1. We come with wounds and scars and crippling injuries to be made well.
- B. Luke 4:16 – 19 Reading in synagogue in Nazareth
- C. Do we want the truth?
 - 1. Do we want an accurate diagnosis of our condition?
 - 2. Truth is often painful
 - 3. Give me the truth – Bill Crews

I. Your Concept of Church: a Hospital or a Resort Hotel?

- A. Hospital:
 - 1. Sick people coming for healing and help who are in various stages of illness, but seeking healing from brokenness and loss.
- B. Resort: Go there to escape pressure and responsibility.
- C. How we see the church makes a difference in how we respond.

II. Hospital View of the church

- A. A place where really sick people can recover.
 - 1. Very serious illnesses (Luke 5:30; 1 Tim. 1:15)
- B. Amnesia about our past (Eph.2:1 – 5) “And you were dead in your trespasses and sins...”
- C. Who is it that you want to be with as family?

III. Transformed and Changed People

- A. Romans 12:1 – 8
 - 1. Whatever we have was “given to us.”
 - 2. “Use them”
 - 3. Most of what we do in Christ is not done as the function of a local church.
 - 4. If any desires to be great - servant, slave
 - a. (Mark 10:43 – 45) “Not so with you. Instead, whoever wants to become great among you must be your servant,
- B. Ephesians 4: 1 – 16

1. 4:1 Called as a prisoner of Christ Jesus, to live and die for Him.
2. Review of what God has done for us: (1:7-8; 2:6-7, 19; 3:10 – 12)
3. 4:1 – 3 “As a prisoner for the Lord, then, I urge you to live a life worthy of the calling you have received. 2 Be completely humble and gentle; be patient, bearing with one another in love. 3 Make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace.”
4. Truth is absolutely vital in the Lord’s hospital. (Eph. 4:20 – 21; 1:22-23)
5. 4:4 – 6 There are fundamental truths that must be agreed upon.
 - a. One body – not many.
 - b. One Spirit – God’s Holy Spirit (cf. 1 John 4:1 – 2)
 - c. One hope – called to that hope by the gospel (cf. 2 Thess. 2:14).
 - d. One Lord – He is both Lord and Christ (Acts 2:36; Rom. 10:9)
 - e. One faith – not many.
 - f. One baptism – baptism into Christ “for the remission of sins”
 - g. One God – not many deities or idols.
6. 4:7 – 11 Christ, the victor over the enemy, has given “gifts” to men.
 - a. Grace was given to each one in Christ.
 - b. When Christ ascended He “gave gifts to men.” (cf. Psalm 68:18)
 - c. Those gifts included some as apostles, prophets, evangelists, pastors and teachers. (v.11).
7. 4:12 – 13 These “gifts” are given to equip the saints for the work of ministry (service).
 - a. Are you one of God’s saved, holy, sanctified ones? “saints”
 - b. Scriptures do not use the term minister to refer to one or two but to every disciple of Christ.
 - c. We are all called to serve Christ by serving one another.
 - d. An evangelist may be a “minister” or servant of the word but he is not “the minister.” (2 Tim. 4:5)
 - e. The “ministry” belongs to all of us. Works of service.

8. Ephesians 4:14 – 16

IV. Conclusion: Will you live for Christ, having died to self?

- A. We are all here because the church is a Hospital for Sinners
- B. Through the cross and the resurrection we have confidence that Christ will receive us.
- C. Death to self and sin results in a new life. (Romans 6:17 – 18)