

***Ingredient 5, Body Life - Romans 12:3-8***  
**Notes, Family Worship, Bible Reading**

**Notes from the Sermon**

What do you think about when you think of the church? Probably the most common thought is that the church is a building. We might ask, where is your church? We expect people to tell us a physical location with a building that includes a large meeting space. We go to church. Coinciding with the building, we also see the church as an event I attend. We go to movies, we go to ball games, we go to church. There will be people on stage performing and hopefully I will gain some entertainment or at least a level of inspiration from the event. Or maybe you think of the church as a hierarchy of leaders, priests, bishops, pastors, popes, whose job is to provide the religious goods and services we need. Truth is, that for some among us and many others who are not in attendance anywhere, the church has become associated with personal pain or political action. Many have been hurt by local churches where power in the church was used to manipulate, and rather than being a safe place to struggle, the church became a source of pain. In other places the church became an offshoot of a political party. Funny thing, though. The New Testament knows nothing of these ideas. Instead, the church is a people, a gathered community that has been shaped by Jesus and the Gospel on mission together. A band of broken people who found their redeemer in Jesus who also placed them in this family of faith. In other words, the church is the people, and if you are a follower of Jesus, you are the church. Did you get that. We don't go to church, we are the church.

After a lengthy explanation of the glorious Gospel of Jesus and its implications in his letter to the Roman church, Paul shifts his focus on chapter 12 on what this means for these people in Rome. Quickly he points out that the church is vital in their discipleship and for the mission of God in that city. While the church is also both universal and eternal, God has also ordained local churches in specific cities and places to serve as mission outposts for the Gospel. This means that Genesis Church is joyfully part of a global movement that has as its promise the redemption of people from every nations, tribe, language, and people group. But we are also a local gathered community shaped by the Gospel for the glory of Jesus. In our text, Paul uses the metaphor of a body to describe the church. The idea is not incredibly complicated. The body is both a whole and many parts. Every part matters deeply, and without any part functioning the body will suffer, and in some cases even die. Yet, no single part is more important than the others, and their purpose only makes sense in relationship to the other parts. In other words, "the thigh bones is connected to the knee bone..." Christ has placed us in His body as He willed, and He has given each of us abilities, passions, and gifts. But these gifts are not so we can shine or for our personal glorification, the giftedness we have is first and foremost for the body, the church, and living out God's mission together.

So the truth is simple. You really need the church. It is vital for your personal growth and development in Christ. I often hear people claim that they can trust Jesus and follow Him individually. "I don't really need the church, I don't get anything out of it." While this may be true in any given week, the Scriptures are clear. We must not forsake gathering together (Hebrews 10:25), challenging one another to the good works God has for us. Like a burning ember pulled from the fire, we will lose our glow and passion apart from the community of faith. But the church also deeply needs you. You are a part of the body, a member with specific gifts and ideas. It is not an accident that you are at Genesis, God placed you here and assigned you a role. God's purpose for you is that you attend, but it is so much more than that. God's purpose is for you to be a participant of this community. You are called to be present, to have deep relationships (like a family), to participate in the mission (of God's Kingdom), to use your gifts to both serve the body and to help the body live out its Gospel purpose.

Our series is about making disciples. The New Testament does not beat around the

bush on the importance of the local church in this journey. I cannot guarantee that you will grow if you attend church (although I am pretty confident saying that if you are both in community and on mission with us you will). But I can boldly declare that there is no authentic discipleship apart from the church of Jesus Christ. Church involvement is not an optional part of God's plan for you. Rather, it is vital, central, and purposeful. It may seem self serving for a church and a pastor to tell people that they need the church. But that would only be true if we were a building, an event, or a hierarchy. If the church is truly a redeemed community with the presence of Jesus, challenging us to give our lives to this community and its mission is the greatest thing you can do each week.

**Bible Reading for the Week**

Daily Bible Readings

Sun	Mon	Tues	Weds	Thurs	Fri	Sat
John 1	John 2	John 3	John 4	John 5	John 6	John 7

Reading from this past week: Romans 12:3-8

Reading in preparation for this coming Sunday: Romans 12:3-8

**Family Worship**

Song - *Who you Say I Am*

[https://youtu.be/lcC1Bp13n\\_4?si=nNp2YQpRNlgiu-p](https://youtu.be/lcC1Bp13n_4?si=nNp2YQpRNlgiu-p)

Gospel Project

Unit: The Church is Opposed

Story: The church handled a problem

Big Picture Question: Why did Jesus become human?

Answer: Jesus became human to obey His Father's plan and rescue sinners.

Scripture: Acts 6

New City Catechism

Question 10: What does God require in the Sixth, Seventh, and Eighth Commandments?

Answer: Sixth, that we do not hurt or hate our neighbor. Seventh, that we live purely and faithfully. Eighth, that we do not take without permission that which belongs to someone else.

Verse: Romans 13:9

Scripture

Romans 12:3-8

- When you think of a church, what comes to mind first? How does the New Testament see the nature of the church?
- What metaphor is used in our text here and what is the core meanings of this metaphor for the church/
- What are some of the other metaphors for the church in the New Testament and what do these images communicate?
- Why is our attendance, involvement, and commitment to a local church so important in our journey of discipleship?

Prayer

\*Pray that we would prioritize Christ's church in our lives and work for the unity of the church.

\*Lift up our Genesis Kids ministry and workers this week.