

## TOPIC: MY CHURCH NEEDS ME

I will always do my best to benefit Christ's church—my church—the body of Christ.

### KEY POINTS

- ❖ In 2016, Faith Sanctuary as a church focused on a year of "Full Engagement." Now is a good time for us to reflect on where we are personally, as far as our commitment and engagement with our church is concerned.
- ❖ Thank God for all who have stepped forward and volunteered, those who are in training, those who are now fully engaged, and those who were willing to take the first step.
- ❖ The scripture text in Ephesians 4 speaks to one of the Apostle Paul's abiding concerns: the health of the "Body", i.e. the Church of Jesus Christ. He addresses this in great detail in his letters to the Corinthians, the Ephesians and the Colossians.
- ❖ Ephesians 4:16 summarizes Paul's teaching on the way the body should work:  
...from whom [*Jesus Christ*] the whole body, joined and knit together by what every joint supplies, according to the effective working by which every part does its share, causes growth of the body for the edifying of itself in love.
- ❖ Paul is making it clear that the whole body, from Christ as the head to me as a toenail, is "joined and knit together by what every joint supplies," as "every part does its share!"
- ❖ Every joint and every part is essential. When we are all engaged, the body grows and the love flows.
- ❖ We need to be functional in our God-given, God-ordained, God-appointed roles.
- ❖ Writing to the Corinthians, Paul spoke about some strange situations that seemed to have developed in the body (1 Corinthians 12:15-18). Feet wanted to be hands and ears wanted to be eyes! And if they couldn't be what they wanted to be, they simply checked out and said, 'I am no longer a part of this body!'
- ❖ To paraphrase Paul: 'Just because the feet and the ears have stated they are no longer part of the body, does that make them any less a part of the body?' The obvious answer is "no." Until or unless they are amputated, or the body dies, the foot is still the foot, the eye is still the eye, and they are expected to do their jobs.
- ❖ It is crucial that we discover what part God wants us to play in His body, then to faithfully (and, hopefully, gladly) fulfill our assigned role(s).
- ❖ We do understand that in the body of Christ, it is possible that our roles may change over time, based upon God's will (and even our own desires). But before this can happen, we must be doing well in our current roles.

**KEY SCRIPTURE:** Ephesians 4:1-3, 11-12, 16; Colossians 1:1-2, 14-24; 1 Corinthians 12:12-27

- ❖ We must be demonstrating willingness, faithfulness, diligence, competence, submission to authority, and a joyful demeanour. Before we can graduate to higher callings, we must "Bloom where you're planted," as the old saying goes.
- ❖ Some are concerned that they have not had an opportunity to fulfill a role they feel is consistent with their gifting. Or they *have* volunteered but have not yet been called into service. What should they do? How should they respond?
- ❖ The simple answer: Keep working hard at honing your skills! Get good. Get strong. Your gift will make room for you in God's time, God's plan and God's purpose (Proverbs 18:16).
- ❖ Take ownership. "This is Christ's church and because I am a valuable part of the body, it is also *my* church. Whether or not I am where I want to be, or where I *think* I should be, I will be faithful right where I am, doing what I can. And if I am doing nothing, I will get busy, starting now."
- ❖ Let us not be impatient with God. Let Him work *with* us and *on* us until He is ready to use us.

### DISCUSSION/REFLECTION TOOLS

1. Take a moment to reflect on the Year of Full Engagement. From that time, have you:
  - ✓ Volunteered for a department or a particular event? Which one(s)?
  - ✓ Have you gone into training or become fully engaged in a particular area? What area(s)?
2. If you have not become fully engaged, what, in your opinion, were the things that prevented you from doing so? Would you be willing to try again?
3. If unsure of your particular calling, pray and ask God to reveal it to you. If you already know, take a moment to thank God for the gifting in your life. Whatever your state may be, ask Him to help you to bloom and grow.







### Prayer Time

Lord, help me make myself available to You, so that I may fulfill Your will, Your purpose, Your calling in My life. In Jesus' Name, Amen.

## WEEK OF SUNDAY, JULY 1, 2018

### NOTES

Meditate as you read through/listen to this week's message. If it helps, use symbols for your notes.

-  (Reminds me/Confirms)
  (New idea)
  (Think about)
-  (Do this)
  (Speaks to my heart)
  (Must share)

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### PRAYER NEEDS/THANKSGIVINGS

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L.G. Ice-Breaker: When a person is talented at something, how can they go about sharing that talent with others?