

Broken...but still working #3

From Pain to Purpose - Unity and Diversity in the Body

The direction that I want to focus on is the spiritual characteristic of the church that is a living body, for ***it is the body of Christ***.

What is the church? *From Pain to Purpose*

It is more than a building, stone, wood, and plaster.

- It is a living and breathing body.
- It is not a dead or sterile body
- Rather it is ***the body of Jesus Christ***.

1 Corinthians 12:12-13 – NKJV - Unity and Diversity in One Body

¹² For as the body is one and has many members, but all the members of that one body, being many, are one body, so also *is Christ*. ¹³ ***For by one Spirit we were all baptized into one body—whether Jews or Greeks, whether slaves or free—and have all been made to drink into one Spirit.***

Neighbor... I MAY BE BROKEN...BUT I AM STILL WORKING! *From Pain to Purpose*

This morning this scripture reminds me of us!

- We are all different...
- Yet have so much in common
- IF we just look beside ***our differences***.
- ***The same*** Holy Spirit fills each life!!!

It also reminded me of a box of “Crayons”.

What do you see in a box of Crayons?

- Many colors
- Many sizes
- Many brands
- But ***ONE purpose***

Likewise ...in the context of our scripture, ***the Bible teaches us:***

- That we have many parts... but we are still one body
- Jews and Gentiles
- African American and Caucasian
- Big and little
- Japanese and Chinese
- Male and Female
- Old and Young
- Fat and Skinny... ***well....you get it***
- ***We are all different... but we are ALL the same***

Genesis 1:27 - NKJV

27 So God created man in His own image; in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them.

- **CEV** - *So God created humans to be like himself*; he made men and women.

We were created in GOD's image!

- We should look like him - Talk like him - Act like him - Be like him!
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Moses was also called by God to bring the Children of Israel out of Egypt

- Yet resistance came from Pharaoh
- He would not allow them to be released
- **God had him** to continue to curse Egypt with plagues
- **Moses** becomes intimidated and
- **God** has to remind him of his PURPOSE - ***From Pain to Purpose***

We are all created by God

- We all look like God... Created after **His image**
 - We all have a voice by God
 - We all have a destiny...
 - ***SO.... What is YOUR purpose????????????????***
 - **From Pain to Purpose**
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Someone here today has come to find their purpose! *From Pain to Purpose!*

- Your purpose may not be your job
- Your house/ car/ clothes/ hair
- Your purpose is what DRIVES you...NOT what you drive
- Your purpose makes you want to get up in the morning
- If you don't want to get up... you don't know your PURPOSE YET!
- But God was about to SHOW Moses his...

Exodus 9:16 - From Pain to Purpose

¹⁶ But indeed for this purpose I have raised you up, that I may show My power in you, and that My name may be declared in all the earth.

- Moses was born into a land where all the babies were killed
- Moses had to be hidden in order to stay alive
- Moses had to be adopted out of his family
- Moses had to be shifted to the Palace
- Moses had to murder someone to flee for his life
- Moses had to hide out on the backside of the desert
- Moses had to stand before Pharaoh and be rejected ...many times...

NOW ... God says I HAVE RAISED YOU UP FOR THIS VERY PURPOSE!!

- That I might show you my POWER
- And that my name might be proclaimed on the earth

From Pain to Purpose Romans 8:28

²⁸ And we know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are the called according to His purpose.

For those who Love God! For those who choose to orient their lives to Him!

- Good doesn't equal comfortable...
- Not comfortable but conformed!
- Your future self is worth the wait, Your worth it!!!

Is it possible you're NOT ready to steward the increase???

- We must orient towards God and His WILL FOR OUR LIVES....
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Romans 8:29 - For those God foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brothers and sisters.

God's foreknowledge leads to predestination for believers to be conformed to the image of His Son, Jesus Christ.

- This emphasizes God's sovereign plan for transforming believers.
- To Christ's likeness – Referred to as Conformed!

This is God's plan for those who love Him and are called according to His purpose!

From Pain to Purpose!!!!

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Remember I told you that I was inspired by crayons this week?

- They are ALL different ... no two colors are the same
- Yet... they ALL have the same purpose!
- We are not to fight each other
- We are not to get under each others skin
- We are here to help - - - establish each others purpose!!!!!!

What if we all worked together! - IF everyone did their part!

- What would **THIS house look like?**

Ephesians 4:11-13 - ¹¹ So Christ himself gave the ***apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the pastors and teachers,***

¹² to equip his people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up – (**So they can find their purpose**)

¹³ until we all reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of the Son of God and become mature, attaining to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ. –

(**united** by our faith - Then we will be **mature** - we will be **completely** like him!)

- Jesus equips Believers for service and to build up the body!
- From Pain to Purpose!
- Leaders unify, mature, and fully develop folks in the knowledge of Christ!

There is ***something about coloring!*** - ***Everyone loves to do it.***

- You will catch the baby in high chair being ***entertained by a crayon*** and a coloring book
- An 80 year old grandpa, will be content with a ***crayon and coloring book***

No two paintings are alike...

No two finger prints

No two pupils ... ***they are ALL different***... But ...

The fingers all are ***made to do the SAME thing***

The Eyes are different...but ***ALL are made to do the SAME thing***...

This reminds me of a story:

Two little girls were sitting at the table coloring

- While one child was coloring
- And the other was crying because she didn't have a crayon to color with
- All the sudden the little girl coloring broke out into tear's
- ***What happened*** the Father asked
- ***I broke my crayon***
- The Daddy smiled and said...
- ***Now that it has been broken*** you can share....

Someone hear me...

You have nothing to share... until you have been broken!

- Now both girls were happy because...they both had a crayon
- It was only half because ***it had been broken***
- But ***because it was broken... there was something to share...***

Watch this.... She had nothing to share ***until*** her crayon was broken...

Broken crayons ***still color!!!!***

CLOSE: Psalm 34:17-18 - NKJV

¹⁷ *The righteous cry out, and the Lord hears, And delivers them out of all their troubles.*

¹⁸ ***The Lord is near to those who have a broken heart***, And saves such as have a contrite spirit.

Psalm 34:17-18 - CEV

¹⁷ When his people pray for help, **he listens *and rescues*** them from their troubles.

¹⁸ The Lord is there ***to rescue all who are discouraged*** and have ***given up hope***.

You have nothing to share until you are broken

And even broken crayons ...still COLOR!

GO out there and COLOR your purpose!

Let the Word of God ring out in its *power and authority*.

- **Let the spirit of God move**
- **Allow it** to do its convicting and drawing work.
- Let us hold our head up high and stand up straight
- Let the world know that **we are the Church!**
- **We are not ashamed of the *gospel of Jesus Christ*.**

From Pain to PURPOSE!!!