Coronavirus Social Distancing Daily Devotion #41

The Family of God

**Romans 12:5 (NASB) “***We, who are many, are one body in Christ, and individually members one of another.”*

Living life together in a family is a great blessing. I remember as a child and into my teenage years, my older brother and I spent a lot of time together. Our father was in the military, so we traveled over the years which made moving to new locations difficult when it came to having friends. We didn’t know anyone; we were the new kids on the block. So my brother and I spent a lot of time together. We rode our bikes all over town at a time when you could do that, and parents didn’t have to worry as much as they do now. In fact, we would ride our bikes so far that we would be gone all day. And we didn’t have a cell phone. Mom would tell us to be home by dinner, which of course we would because we would be starving from our day’s journey. Those were good days.

But life has a way of creating distance between people. And sure enough, life took my brother and me in different directions. And because of those different directions we began to develop differences in the way we view life and what is important and what is not important. Our love for each other is still there but there is not the same connection there once was.

The beauty of what our Lord teaches us about His family is that it is made of many people from around the world and each one has his or her own way of living life. In other words, we are all different. Different in the way we see things, the way we approach things, the opinions we have and many other differences. Therefore, the challenges to our sinful natures is to learn how to live life with one another and continue to love each other despite our differences.

The Lord is telling us that His family is one family, one body, one unit made up of different people. The beauty in that spiritual body is the Holy Spirit gives us the ability to have our differences and yet remain one. That is why the Lord, in other passages of Scripture. teaches us to put aside our differences and not let them come between us. In fact, the Apostle Paul gives a beautiful illustration of this truth in his letter to the church at Corinth. In that letter he uses the human body as an example describing how it is made of different parts yet works together perfectly to make one person. ***1 Corinthians 12:14-18 (NASB)*** *14 “For the body is not one member, but many. 15  If the foot says, "Because I am not a hand, I am not a part of the body," it is not for this reason any the less a part of the body. 16  And if the ear says, "Because I am not an eye, I am not a part of the body," it is not for this reason any the less a part of the body. 17  If the whole body were an eye, where would the hearing be? If the whole were hearing, where would the sense of smell be? 18  But now God has placed the members, each one of them, in the body, just as He desired.”*

I have been in vocational ministry for over twenty years, and I have watched many people get upset at others and leave the church. It is a sad reality but true none the less. Usually the reason for their leaving is because they are upset over some issue that is unresolved. Can you imagine your right arm saying to your left arm, “I will not be your companion any more, you squeezed my hand to hard and you didn’t say anything to make it right”. Or suppose your eye said to your brain, “I’m not going to show you anything anymore because you use the left eye more than you use me”. Those are ridiculous illustrations, but they make the point. God has placed each of us in His family just as He wanted. And He did that so we would work together as one body, one unit, to accomplish His work.

Dear ones these days are challenging and frustrating, and it is easy to take those frustrations out on one another. But lets always remember, we are the Church - the family of God. Let us live life together displaying the heart of our Father: compassionate, forgiving, gentle, kind, merciful, gracious and many other wonderful attributes. Even in your immediate family, do all you can to live with one another in a way that would prove you belong to God. He rescued you for a purpose - to glorify Himself and one of the best ways to do that is within the context of family.