

January 16, 2014

The Unglamorous Life

Romans 12:4-5 (NASB), ***“For just as we have many members in one body and all the members do not have the same function, so we, who are many, are one body in Christ, and individually members of one of another.”***

This coming Sunday is the AFC and NFC Championship games in the National Football League. After Sunday evening we will know which teams will be traveling to New York in two weeks to play in the Super Bowl. Here in Colorado most people are very excited because the Denver Broncos are in the AFC Championship game. The Broncos are of course led by quarterback Peyton Manning and their opponent this weekend; the New England Patriots are led by quarterback Tom Brady. Both of these men are without a doubt first ballot hall of famers once they hang up their cleats. The reality though is that despite their greatness if the teams around them do not play well they will not win. In football if the offensive linemen don't block it doesn't matter how great your quarterback is, your team is going to struggle. The job of an offensive lineman is not glamorous and does not get near the attention it deserves but it is vital to the success of a football team.

It is the same within the body of Christ. In Romans 12:3 Paul concluded with ***“as God has allotted to each a measure of faith.”*** We learned the other day as we were looking at this verse that this didn't refer to salvation but rather it referred to the giving of Spiritual gifts which we are then to use in serving our Lord. But we are not all given the same gifts and this is what verse 4 and 5 is explaining.

In verse 4 Paul compares the body of Christ to our bodies. Paul writes, ***“just as we have many members in one body and all the members do not have the same function.”*** I have two legs, two arms, two hands and so on so forth. All of the parts of my body do not do the same thing and yet my body for the most part seems to function in perfect harmony. But not all of the parts of my body are visible and out front but their function is vital to my health nonetheless.

So it is the same within the body of Christ. In verse 5 Paul writes, ***“so we, who are many, are one body in Christ, and individually members one of another.”*** For example here at Calvary Baptist Church we have many members with many different spiritual gifts. Not all of us are called to be pastors or teachers. Some are called to do some of the less visible but essential work of the church.

I read this morning in Our Daily Bread a story about the 1949 Los Angeles Crusade that was held by Billy Graham. This crusade went on for eight weeks and they met in a massive tent that held 6000 people. Nearby the big tent was a much smaller tent that had been set aside for counseling and for prayer. Cliff Barrows who was the longtime music director and associate of Dr. Graham later said that the real work of the Crusade took place in that tent. Pearl Goode was a local Los Angeles woman who led those prayer meetings of people who gathered each night while the crusade was being held in the big tent and faithfully prayed for the salvation of those who were hearing the gospel. Most of us have probably never heard of Pearl Goode but her and the other faithful *nameless* saints played a vital part in many others coming to saving faith in Christ.

In Ephesians 4:4 it says, ***“There is one body and one Spirit, just as also you were called in one hope of your calling...”*** We are called into ***“one body”*** and that ***“one body”*** is the body of Christ and we all have different callings within the body. Ephesians 4:11-13 says, “And He gave some as evangelists, and some as pastors and teachers, for the equipping of the saints for the work of service, to the building up of the body of Christ...” We are called as part of the body of Christ to exercise our gifts ***“for the equipping of the saints”*** and ***“to the building up of the body of Christ.”*** Our primary concern for each other and for our church should be edification; strengthening each other so the work of the gospel can continue and continue effectively.

As Christ followers we are saved by faith in Christ alone but we are not saved in a vacuum. We are saved to serve and each of us has different callings to serve the Lord. Ephesians 2:10 says, ***“For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand so that we would walk in them.”***

Friends you may not be called to be upfront in your service to the Lord, that may not be your gift; but your gift, whatever it is, is just as important as the pastor who gets up each Sunday and preaches the gospel. Let us remember that we all do the work of the gospel.