

Truly The Community



2023 Lenten Journey – Week 5

Based on Marva J. Dawn

Romans 12 – How to Be the Church

THE VALUE OF BEING IN COMMUNITY

Romans 12: 4-5 4 “For just as each of us has one body with many members, and these members do not all have the same function, so in Christ we, though many, form one body, and each member belongs to all the others.”

Humility is at the heart of becoming God’s family. Nobody is better than the other. Each person serves a particular purpose. Each purpose is a critical component of the building of the Kingdom of God. We are each allocated our place in the vineyard. Some people do prominent tasks, while others get to be allocated less prominent tasks. These are like a nut or a screw that holds the entire structure together with all other tiny nuts or screws. Each one plays a critical role in putting the structure together. Without that one screw the integrity of the structure gets to be compromised. It might take time, but its fate was sealed the day there was a missing nut or screw.

- How do you think your life can contribute to the entire kingdom of God?
- Have you noticed some of the compromise in life because of missing screws like love, compassion, affirmation? All these are the ingredients of witnessing.
- What signs are there that in the world showing that there is a missing screw or nut? Crime, hatred, oppression, violence, betrayal, disrespect? What effect would these signs have?

Paul reminds us that we are all members. The sense of independence makes us not to be team players. We are called to work together for the common good, pleasing, and perfect will of God. God has willed for us to have different gifts. God has willed for us to excel in certain life-giving areas rather than all of us doing the same things all the time.

- What are your gifts and talents that can enrich life?
- How best can you use these in your own special way as God has gifted you?
- Think of the people who can benefit from your life, not just your money?

Not only are we dependent on each other, but we also belong to each other. This is a powerful thought by Paul, because in essence, belonging is defined by coming out of, emerging from. Can we see each other as coming from each other? When you belong, it is not a question of being possessed, but a question of identification. It is about the similarity and not necessarily likeness. The similarity is in how we relate. We may not look alike, but we can behave similarly. Our relationship with one another can influence who we become to others who they are to us. Communal life is reciprocal.

- Who are the people that you could influence with your life?
- How best can you influence these people?
- Who has been the most influential person in your life?
- What have you learnt from them that could make you to be a gift to others?

Prayer:

Teach me Lord to be a gift to others and to accept them as a gift in my life.

Amen



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