



WEEKLY SERMON

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Message: Christian Life

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Text: I Corinthians 12:12-27

The Psalmist declared in Psalms 98:1-2, "**O sing unto the Lord a new song: for He hath done marvelous things ... The Lord hath made known His salvation ...**"

The Apostle Paul wrote in Ephesians 5:18-19, "**And be not drunk with wine, wherein is excess; but be filled with the Spirit; (19) Speaking to yourselves in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord; (20) Giving thanks always for all things unto God and the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ;**"

He also wrote in Colossians 3:16, "**Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom; teaching and admonishing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord.**"

A part of our worship service involves singing. But singing just for singing's sake without any thought of allowing the words to sink down into our souls and change our lives is "**Hypocritical Singing.**"

1. We sing "**Sweet Hour of Prayer**" and yet we are content with only five or ten minutes a day.
2. We sing "**Onward Christian Soldiers**" and wait to get drafted into doing services for the Lord instead of volunteering.
3. We sing "**Blest Be the Tie that Binds**" and let the least little offense sever our fellowship with God's people.
4. We sing "**O For a Thousand Tongues to Sing**" and don't use the one we have to spread the gospel to others.
5. We sing "**There Shall Be Showers of Blessing**" but don't come out to church when it rains.
6. We sing "**Serve the Lord with Gladness**" and often times we gripe about all we have to do.
7. We sing "**I Love to Tell the Story**" and hardly ever mention it to the dying world around us.
8. We sing "**We're Marching to Zion**" but can't seem to make it out to prayer meeting.
9. We sing "**Cast Thy burden on the Lord**" and worry ourselves into a nervous breakdown.
10. We sing "**The Whole Wide World for Jesus**" and never invite our next-door neighbor to church.
11. We sing "**O Day of Rest and Gladness**" and wear ourselves out traveling, cutting grass, or playing sports on the Lord's Day.

12. We sing “**Throw out the Life Line**” and are content with just throwing out a fishing line.

Remember this , “**Any music that does not glorify God, refresh the spirit, and bring others to the knowledge of salvation in Jesus Christ should be rejected because like all things temporal, any other kind will pass away with the hay and stubble of this world.**”

I heard the following song, “Set My Soul Afire” sang as a special on a number of occasions. Let the words be a great reminder of why we sing.

Set my soul afire, Lord, for Thy holy Word,
Burn it deep within me, let Thy voice be heard;
Millions grope in darkness in this day and hour,
I will be a witness, fill me with Thy power.

Set my soul a fire, Lord, for the lost in sin,
Give to me a passion as I seek to win;
Help me not to falter, never let me fail,
Fill me with Thy Spirit, let Thy will prevail.

Set my soul afire, Lord, in my daily life,
Far too long I’ve wandered in this day of strife;
Nothing else will matter but to live for Thee,
I will be a witness, for Christ lives in me.

Refrain

Set my soul afire, Lord, set my soul afire,
Make my life a witness of Thy saving power.
Millions grope in darkness, waiting for Thy Word,
Set my soul afire, Lord, Set my soul afire.

“Quotables” - sayings worth remembering...

“The church exists for the double purpose of gathering in and sending out.”

“The church that compromises TRUTH today will compromise MORALS tomorrow.”

Ask yourself, “What kind of a church would my church be, if everyone was just like me?”

“Death is just a comma to a Christian, not a period.”

“Never doubt in the dark what God has shown you in the light.”

A famous artist was asked to paint a picture of a dying church. It was expected that he would paint a small humble congregation in a dilapidated building. Instead, he painted a steely edifice with a rich pulpit and magnificent windows. Near the inside of the front door was painted, an offering box, marked “**Missions,**” with the contribution slot blocked by cobwebs.

In His Amazing Grace,
Pastor David Miklas

"A WOUNDED SPIRIT"

INTRODUCTION: In I Corinthians 12:12-27 we read,

"For as the body is one, and hath many members, and all the members of that one body, being many, are one body: so also is Christ. (13) For by one Spirit are we all baptized into one body, whether we be Jews or Gentiles, whether we be bond or free; and have been all made to drink into one Spirit. (14) For the body is not one member, but many. (15) If the foot shall say, Because I am not the hand, I am not of the body; is it therefore not of the body? (16) And if the ear shall say, Because I am not the eye, I am not of the body; is it therefore not of the body? (17) If the whole body were an eye, where were the hearing? If the whole were hearing, where were the smelling? (18) But now hath God set the members every one of them in the body, as it hath pleased him. (19) And if they were all one member, where were the body? (20) But now are they many members, yet but one body. (21) And the eye cannot say unto the hand, I have no need of thee: nor again the head to the feet, I have no need of you. (22) Nay, much more those members of the body, which seem to be more feeble, are necessary: (23) And those members of the body, which we think to be less honourable, upon these we bestow more abundant honour; and our uncomely parts have more abundant comeliness. (24) For our comely parts have no need: but God hath tempered the body together, having given more abundant honour to that part which lacked. (25) That there should be no schism in the body; but that the members should have the same care one for another. (26) And whether one member suffer, all the members suffer with it; or one member be honoured, all the members rejoice with it. (27) Now ye are the body of Christ, and members in particular."

In this passage Paul uses the word **body** seventeen times to illustrate in the **HUMAN** sense how the **LIVING BODY** (the church) should operate. You and I make up the body which is the church. Christ is the Head of this body, as we read in Colossians 1:18, **"And he (speaking of Christ) is the head of the body, the church... that in all things he might have the pre-eminence."**

As we look over these verses, you will discover:

In verses 12-13, **We** are placed into the body by the baptizing of the Holy Spirit. This is immediately as we put our faith in the Lord Jesus Christ.

In verses 14-17, **We** all have different functions within the body of Christ just as the various parts of our body does in us.

In verses 18-21, **We** all function for the benefit of others within the body. For example, the eye cannot say I have no need of the hand. Have you not heard of the hand-eye coordination.

No member of Christ's body can say, **"I don't need you."** We all need each other. I can't say as Pastor, I don't need the music ministry. I need them because God gave them a talent to bless us with that which I don't have. **"THERE ARE NO LITTLE JOBS OR MINISTRIES IN THIS CHURCH."** Each and every person and each and every ministry, no matter if it appears behind the scenes or out front, is just as important as another.

Let me put it this way, **"I need your ministry and your spiritual gifts to see ME THROUGH as you need mine. No Christian can say to any other Christian, "MY MINISTRY CAN GET ALONG WITHOUT YOURS!"**

Some members are feeble, and there are those members of the body of Christ who are behind the scenes, we don't see them but they are necessary. We need them here at church. Now upon these members, we are to give more honor because they are not always recognized.

Some members are out front so-to-speak. They receive a great deal of recognition. Nevertheless, we need each other, so that together there will be no division, verses 22-25.

We can WEEP with those who do suffer, verse 26.

We can REJOICE with those who have received honor, verse 26.

Here is a letter I sent years ago to the congregation of my first ministry:

I need every Christian. None of us can do without the rest of us, for I am taught in the Word

of God that I am a member of the body of Christ. Every member of that body needs every other member of that body.

Especially this is true because I am a leader that God's people chose to be their pastor. There are several things that I have found about my need of you.

In the first place, if a leader builds followers, he builds a more secure foundation under himself. Likewise, if the follower helps to build his leader, he builds a more sure building above himself. Hence, if I would be the best leader I can be, I must build the best followers I can build. Therefore, I need you, as you need me.

In the second place, I can learn from you. I have adopted this motto which says, "Every man knows something that I do not know. I must probe until I find it; therefore, all men are my teachers." I seek to listen, read and ask questions to find what I believe is the best for my followers and then I pass that information onto you. **I NEED YOU TO TEACH ME.**

In the third place, I need not criticize you, for you are me, and I am you. We are of the same body. When I criticize you, in reality, I criticize myself. When I tear you down, I tear down myself.

We are in the same body, we are to function together; we need each other. Many people in one day can tear down someone with more responsibility and influence and can do more harm in one day to the cause of Christ than the good they can do in a lifetime.

The follower needs the leader and the leader needs the follower. In fact, we all need each other. Because I need you, I must pray for you. I must not criticize you. I must love you. I must build you up. I must edify you, for you are me and I am you and we need each other. Yes,

- I need your cooperation and ministry.
- I need your prayers.
- I need your help.
- I need your confidence.
- I need you to come to me if there is something that is not right.

Therefore, let us love each other, pray for each other, encourage each other, for you need me, and most certainly I **NEED YOU!**

In verses 25-26 we are taught that we should work hard at creating **UNITY** in the church. Now the word "schism" means "division." Someone said this,

Diversity leads to disunity when the members compete with one another; but diversity leads to unity when the members CARE FOR ONE ANOTHER.

Our **ACTIONS** and **REACTIONS** will show just how much we really care for one another in the body of Christ. But sometimes our actions and reactions to one another will cause a wounded spirit that will ultimately bring a bitter spirit into the body of Christ.

Proverbs 18:14 tells us, "**The spirit of a man will sustain his infirmity; but A WOUNDED SPIRIT who can bear?**"

In our bodies there are what we call white corpuscles. They're all over my body. For example, I have a little infection on one of my fingers. When that infection came, little white corpuscles all over my body got together and said, "**We'd better rush up there to that finger. There is a problem and we need to heal it.**" They began to rush to that finger from all over my body and attack that infection. The white corpuscles are part of my immune system.

- Isn't it amazing that Christian people don't do that.
- Why don't we rush to the Christian who's got a problem?
- Why don't we rush to him or her and try to heal his wounds?

The immune system of the child of God is his spirit. You keep your spirit in good shape and you will stay in spiritual health. A Christian needs a healthy spirit.

Similarly, if the church is not healthy, it is in danger of damaging its spirit. Consequently, the church will exhibit a wounded spirit. **"But a wounded spirit who can bear it."**

We have too many wounded spirits in the church. The devil has gotten to us. People have offended us until our hurts have made us immune to the needs of others and neglectful to the well-being of our own souls.

It's amazing how good, Bible Believing, Born Again people go from church to church with wounded spirits. They stay long enough to discover somebody is **NOT PERFECT**. Let's face it, no body is perfect but the Lord Jesus Christ. Yet we find ourselves being easily offended, and as a result we exhibit a wounded spirit.

Many of us need to pray those words from the old song, **"HEAL MY WOUNDED, BROKEN SPIRIT, SAVE ME BY THY GRACE."**

Many of us would do well to re-memorize these words, **"The spirit of a man will sustain his infirmity; but A WOUNDED SPIRIT who can bear?"**

Psalms 119:165 teaches us that there is a way that we can rise above being offended. **"Great peace have they which love thy law: and nothing shall offend them."**

Did you notice this verse does not say, **"Great peace have they who love thy law and little shall offend them."** No! It says, **"Great peace have they who LOVE THE WORD OF GOD..."** Those who love the Word of God - **NOTHING SHALL OFFEND THEM!**

Now an offense may not be a sin. **It may be that my offense is ingrained in my personality. Or it may be that what I have done that seems to offend you is not sin, but is a weakness in my life. Maybe I know it or perhaps I'm not aware of it.**

For example, In my case there are times I get a one-track mind or tunnel vision and I am wanting to speak to someone about a matter. In the process, I might pass by you and not speak to you on that occasion. If I have offended you, I didn't mean to, but I did. That offense was not sin, but nevertheless it bothers you. Now in kindness, you can speak to me about it or you can say to yourself, he must be pre-occupied, and then let it go.

For example, I may say something in a message that somehow offends you.

**Maybe I said it in the heat of the message and don't realize I said it that way.
Maybe you heard it and you don't understand it.**

I have no problem with you coming to me and asking what was said to help you understand it or correct it.

Instead, some get offended, their spirit's get wounded, then they start to gossip about it, and in some cases they cut that person off. Unfortunately, that person has **NO IDEA WHAT HE HAS DONE**. My friends, this goes on all the time. Please don't let the Devil use a wounded spirit to destroy the fellowship among friends and the church.

Again Psalms 119:165 says, **"Great PEACE have they who love thy law, and nothing shall offend them."** Those who love the Word of God - **NOTHING SHALL OFFEND THEM.**

Let's stop saying someone is bad or wrong because they might not do something the way we think they ought to do it. We all get into one another's hair and do things that will not be sin, but we will do things that others don't understand or are offended by. You may do it to me, and I may do it to you. However, I am not bad and neither are you.

It might be that I did offend you, I am sorry if I did.

**It may be over an issue that we both agree on, but don't realize that we do.
It may be over an issue on which we have two different points of view, therefore we must agree to disagree.**

That does not make us bad or sinful or evil or even wrong. Here are two more thoughts to consider.

FIRST: If you don't want to have a wounded spirit then you need to **GIVE PEOPLE SOME LEEWAY**. Perhaps your critic has not been privileged to know something you know. Sometimes you get frustrated at people and throw up your hands in despair, and say, "They should know better." Maybe they should; but remember they are just as human as you are.

We are so constructed that a person could be mean to the rest of the world and good to us, so we think they are good.

On the other hand, that person could be good to the rest of the world and mean to us, so we think they are bad.

There are people who have not had the same understanding or teaching as we have had. Why should we have our feelings hurt by those who have not been privileged to know what we know.

Listen! I get hurt feelings just like you.

I am sad when I win someone to Christ and they get bitter about something and leave the church.

I am sad and hurt when I have preached and counseled with folks, literally spent hours with them helping them to do right, and they get mad about some decision I have had to make, which causes them to develop a bitter spirit and leave the church.

I am grieved when folks say the preacher doesn't have any love in his heart. O' that cuts deep.

You cannot offend me. You may hurt me, but you cannot offend me. I will feel sorry for you if you do hurt me, but I will not be angry with you.

Nobody deserves my wounded spirit.

Nobody desires my vengeance.

God can give you victory over a wounded spirit by staying in the **WORD OF GOD**. The Lord will restore a right spirit within you.

SECOND: **DO NOT RETALIATE** to those who do offend or wound you. I found this little article many years ago:

"A lot of people are convinced that if we could get other people cleaned up, we'd have a perfect church. I suppose that is true. But one thing we have failed to realize is that we can't clean anybody up. Only the Spirit of God can cleanse and purify. It would be wonderful if all the staff members, or all the Deacons and leaders starting with myself, could be absolutely without fault. But I know and you know that every one of us has a problem of one sort or another that the Spirit of God is dealing with.

Yes, I believe there's not even one exception. Every one of us has to battle with something. PUTTING DOWN PEOPLE, OR BUILDING YOURSELF UP OR JUDGING OR CONDEMNING WILL NEVER BUILD THE BODY OF CHRIST.

Listen! If my brother or sister in Christ is not doing what I think is right, I hope perhaps he or she changes. It just may be that I need to come to understand what he or she knows that I don't. Therefore, I ought to pray for them and if possible reach out and help them.

Right now, I may be talking to someone who has a wounded spirit, and has developed some hurt feelings. Someone has mistreated you. Perhaps you have a spirit of revenge, or a spirit of hatred. Let's not go any further without considering ways for you to prevent being offended and prevent living with a wounded spirit. Here are eight things to consider:

1. I must stay in the Word of God.

2. I must realize that maybe my brother or sister is broken, and I need to help him or her.

3. **I must** give people leeway. I need to allow God's people in the body of Christ to differ with me. Rather than demanding that my opinion is right, I must allow them their opinion, which could perhaps be more right than mine.
4. **I must** yield to the only one who has perfect justice, and that is God. Since God is the only one Who is always right, I must accept the fact that at times of disagreement, I may be the one who is wrong.
5. **I must** seek **MERCY** not **VENGEANCE**.
6. **I must** seek **RECONCILIATION** not **RETALIATION**.
7. **I must** seek **FORGIVENESS** not **VINDICATION**.
8. **I must** seek **PATIENCE** not **RESISTANCE**.

Let me close by saying **LETS KEEP LOVING AND SMILING AND CARING, BY REALIZING ALL OF US ARE IMPERFECT**. All of us have a nature that falls short because of sin. There is none righteous but Jesus.

Do you have some little something in your head against someone? Then go to that person and make it right. Only then will you begin to understand what it means to have great peace in your soul.

If God has spoken to your heart after reading the sermon "**A WOUNDED SPIRIT**" then right now talk to God about what He has spoken to you.

Do you have the assurance that one day you will go to heaven? If you have no assurance that you know Jesus Christ, then I trust you will decide to accept Him as your personal Savior. The Bible tells us in

Acts 16:31, "...**Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be saved...**"

Romans 10:13, "**For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved.**"

This prayer is here for those who need to ask Jesus to be their personal Savior: "**I do want to go to Heaven. I know I am a sinner, and I do believe Jesus Christ died for me. I realize I cannot buy this great salvation, nor can I earn it. Knowing Jesus died on the cross and arose from the grave to pay my sin debt and to purchase my salvation, I do now trust Him as my Savior, and from this moment on I am completely depending on Him for my salvation.**"

If you made the decision to accept Jesus Christ as your personal Savior let me know? Please send an e-mail to, pdmikBBM@aol.com and I will send you some literature that will help you in your Christian life.

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