

## THANKSgiving

### Knit Together-The Blessing of Community

Sunday, November 21, 2021

#### Romans 12: 3-13 NASB

<sup>3</sup>For through the grace given to me I say to everyone among you not to think more highly of himself than he ought to think; but to think so as to have sound judgment, as God has allotted to each a measure of faith. <sup>4</sup>For just as we have many parts in one body and all the body's parts do not have the same function, <sup>5</sup>so we, who are many, are one body in Christ, and individually parts of one another. <sup>6</sup>However, since we have gifts that differ according to the grace given to us, *each of us is to use them properly*: if prophecy, in proportion to *one's* faith; <sup>7</sup>if service, in the *act of serving*; or the one who teaches, in the *act of teaching*; <sup>8</sup>or the one who exhorts, in the *work of exhortation*; the one who gives, with generosity; the one who is in leadership, with diligence; the one who shows mercy, with cheerfulness. <sup>9</sup>Love *must be* free of hypocrisy. Detest what is evil; cling to what is good. <sup>10</sup>Be devoted to one another in brotherly love; give preference to one another in honor, <sup>11</sup>not lagging behind in diligence, fervent in spirit, serving the Lord; <sup>12</sup>rejoicing in hope, persevering in tribulation, devoted to prayer, <sup>13</sup>contributing to the needs of the saints, practicing hospitality.

#### 1. One in Body (vs. 4-5)

1 Corinthians 12: 12-14 By one Spirit we were baptized into one body.

1 Samuel 18:1 Jonathan became one in spirit with David.

#### 2. Honor One Another (v. 10)

Philippians 2:3 In humility, value others above yourself.

1 Samuel 18: 3-4 Jonathan took off his robe and gave it to David.

#### 3. Extend Genuine Love (vs. 7-9, 13)

Proverbs 17:17 A friend loves at all times; a brother born for adversity.

1 Samuel 20:13 May the Lord be with you as He has with my father.

Romans 12: 9-10 Don't pretend to love others, really love them.

**Conclusion:** Precious is the gift of being knit together as the Body of Believers through the Spirit. In this union there is abiding, protective and understanding love, strength multiplied and hope unending. Let us give thanks for community and care for the community we are joined to.

## LIFE GROUP LESSON

### Knit Together

Week of November 21 – November 27, 2021

**Ice Breaker:** When you think of the church-what comes to mind? What images do you see as it's functioning?

#### Read Romans 12: 3-13.

1. What does the apostle Paul warn us of? (v.3) Why?
2. Do we reach the fullness of faith on our own?
3. How are we designed to live in our faith?
4. Read v. 4. What do we learn about each of us as believers and how we are connected? How does the Church fit into this truth?
5. V. 5-"we are individually parts of one another." What does this mean?
6. What is our responsibility to the Body? (v.6)
7. Vs. 7-8. How important is it for these various gifts to be functioning in harmony in the Church?
8. Can one person do all these things well all the time? Or are these gifts designed to work in unison?
9. What is v. 9 teaching? What do we let go of and what do we grab hold of when we live among the community of Believers?
10. How have you seen v. 10 lived out in the Church? In our community?
11. How does brotherly/sisterly love differ from love we know in the world?
12. What are we to do on a daily basis to support the body-the community of saints- we are joined to? (vs. 11-12)
13. How have you seen this lived out and practiced in recent times in the Church, *in our church and community*?
14. Read 1 Samuel 18:1 and vs. 3-4. What made Jonathan and David so close? How did they view one another? Can we have this same bond?
15. Read Proverbs 17:17. What is our role when our brothers and sisters are in trouble? How are we prepared to assist?
16. In what ways can you praise God for the gift of community in the saints? What specific ways has the Body strengthened you?
17. Will you pray more to see how God wants to use your gifts to better serve and bless the Church, the community He has joined you with?

**Point to ponder:** The Church needs you just as much as you need the Church. Let us not only give thanks for the Church, let us continually seek God's guidance on how we care for the Church.