

Week 4 of Body & Soul Worship Series  
Being the Body of Christ  
May 29, 2011  
Intro to Reflections

**Romans 12:1-5; 1 Cor 12:17-20, 26-27; Eph 4:1-6, 16**

~ New Living Translation and The Inclusive Bible Translation

Sisters and brothers, I beg you through the mercy of God to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God—this is your spiritual act of worship. Don't copy the behavior and customs of this world, but let God transform you into a new person by changing the way you think, so that you can judge what God's will is—what is good, pleasing and perfect.

...Don't think you are better than you really are. Be honest in your evaluation of yourselves, measuring yourselves by the faith God has given us. Just as our bodies have many parts and each part has a special function, so it is with Christ's body. We are many parts of one body, and we all belong to each other.

If the body were all eye, what would happen to our hearing? If it were all ear, what would happen to our sense of smell? Instead of that, God put all the different parts into one body on purpose. If all the parts were alike, where would the body be? They are, indeed, many different members but one body.

If one member suffers, all the members suffer with it; if one member is honored, all the members share its joy. You, then, are the body of Christ, and each one of you is a member of it.

Therefore...lead a life worthy of your calling, for you have been called by God. Always be humble and gentle. Be patient with each other, making allowance for each other's faults because of your love. Make every effort to keep yourselves united in the Spirit, binding yourselves together with peace. For there is one body and one Spirit, just as you have been called to one glorious hope for the future. There is one Savior, one faith, one baptism, and one God and Creator, who is over all and in all and living through all.

Through Christ the whole body grows. With the proper functioning of each member, firmly joined together by each supporting ligament the body builds itself up in love.

It has felt like we have been growing as a body this last month as we live into this sexuality series. God's Spirit is moving in, through, around, below, and among us. Weaving us together, both on personal levels as well as communal levels. We are living out what it means to be the body of Christ as we look together at our sexuality. Listening deeply to one another creates an opening for us to look at our own stuff. Our fears, mistakes, vulnerabilities, shame, and uneasiness about our own sexuality. And that helps us become more real with God, as well as with one another.

I have felt God's Spirit moving as each week the sharing went way beyond what I had anticipated. Some times people have offered to share their stories and other times I have asked people to share. And each week has been rich and deep, vulnerable and meaningful. It has been powerful to hear the different voices. And we as Pastoral Team affirm this time of sharing from various perspectives.

We are being the body of Christ. Sharing in one another's realities, while not being busybodies. Holding one another's stories with care and respect. Finding ways to live out our sexuality together in a community. This is holy ground. And we do not do this alone. Christ's presence surrounds us, God's grace fills us, and the Spirit's power gives us courage.

This morning Drick, Andy, and Sherri will be sharing. As in other week's we recognize that they do not speak for all men or for all women, but speak from their unique perspectives. Yet by sharing with us, we get glimpses of ourselves. We may find similarities and differences to our own realities. We may find things that make us reflect on our own journeys. Either because we disagree or because we see things in common. May we be open to God's Spirit here this morning, weaving us together, as we journey with Jesus.

~ Lorie Hershey, May 29, 2011