Scripture Reading: Romans 12

Singing: 282:1-4 – 123:1 – 132:1-5 – 449:1-2 – 357:1-4

**The One Church (3)**

I. What is the “one” church? II. What is this “one church” called? *III. What unites this one church? IV. How is this one church to function?*

**III. What *unites* this one Church?**

A. Unity is not physical – linguistic – cultural but a spiritual unity

 1. God’s family is *scattered over earth – often separated by force – language*

*– cultural habits – man-made walls – unneeded division*

 2. Still they are *united as ‘branches in same vine – parts of same body*

 3. What are the marks of the members of this church?

 a. consider Matt. 5: 3ff- art 29 of Belgic Confession – Canons I,12

 4. What to do when you can’t find these marks in your heart?

 a. use the means God has given to work His grace within us

 b. don’t be alarmed at reprobation; instead look to God’s grace

**IV. How is this one church to function?**

A. She cannot function apart from *Christ* (John 15:4)

B. She will only function when we grasp Biblical teaching of “fellowship”

 1. What is ‘fellowship or communion of saints?’

 a. G: is *relationship – partnership* (Rom. 12:5 – 1 Cor. 12)

b. in belonging together, we owe each other ourselves

 c. examine your thinking – acting according to Rom. 12:3ff

 • do you see it as your duty to readily and cheerfully employ all

 your gifts for the advantage and salvation of other members?

C. Consider *gifts* each saintreceives as part of the body of Christ according

 1. Consider the teaching of 1 Cor. 12:6 and 1 Peter 4:10

 a. each part of human body has a function – is to be active

b. each part of spiritual body *has a specific task*

c. each part has been gifted with abilities to function

 2. How are we to function wit these gifts?

 a. by being sober – level-headed – sensible about yourself (Rom. 12:3)

 b. By being devoted to each other in true genuine love (vs. 9-10)

 a. love must be genuine – unhypocritical –not be faked – empty words

 • refer to 1 Peter 4:8 *-* John 15:12

 b. body is called to be devoted to “care for each other” 1 Cor. 12:25-26

 • suppose case of Gal. 6:1 *… how respond as believers?*

 c. this service of love is to be *diligent – fervent – God-directed*

 • sharing materially (vs. 13) – sharing emotionally (vs. 15)!

 d. includes *reproving one another* (1Thess. 5:14; Eph. 4:29; Col. 3:16)

 e. praying for each other (1 Tim. 2:1; James 5:16)

 f. by sharing with each other (Heb. 3:13; 10:24-25)

Close: Let’s learn to pray and practice according to Rom. 15:5-7

 *Now the God of patience and consolation grant you to be likeminded*

 *once toward another, according to Christ Jesus*

 *That ye may with one mind and one mouth glorify God, even the Father*

 *of our Jesus Christ*

 *wherefore receive ye one another as Christ also received us to the glory*

 *of God*