

FOR THE LOVE OF THE CHURCH

CHALLENGE THIS MORNING

ATTENTION:

 The Church came to exist as the result of the plan of God and the working of Jesus. ([Matthew 16:18](#)).

-  At its conception those who were coming to Jesus became church – Defined as *the called out*.
- They spent much time together in fellowship, praying, worshiping, learning and personally devoting themselves to the apostles teaching. ([Acts 2:42](#)).

ATTUNE:

 As Christians function together as church they work much like the human body ([1 Corinthians 12:18-20](#)).

- Though it is a single body
- There are many parts – hand, eye, ear, foot, etc.
- Each of the parts play a significant role for a healthy body/church.
- Each part is unique but important to the body as a whole.
- To appreciate the church as a body leaves one with the realization that life is not all about ME!
 - ...appreciating the effect we have upon each other when we make it a priority to simply be together.
 - ...appreciating the results of our gifts, time, contact, etc.
 - ...understanding that what we have and who we are has been given to us so we can be His church – ministering to each other and our world of influence.

BODY:

As the Apostle Paul writes to the different congregations it becomes obvious that none of them could be held up as a perfect model

- The same is true today – none can be held up as a perfect model
- Our imperfect efforts are to produce a Christ honoring fellowship.
 - Honoring Christ together
 - While serving Him together
 - Supporting one another
 - Working together to share Jesus with others
 - Worshiping together

-  The function of the body is not to be understood as a spectator's endeavor.
- Church is not meant to be done alone! ([Hebrews 10:24-25](#))
 - It is together that we stir one another up to love and good works and encourage each other.
 - Times for the church to teach and be taught are not to be sparsely attended.
 - Fellowship of worshiping together are not to be ignored.
-  The priority of church is great in the heart of God!

PROJECT:

- Church – What it has come to mean even to many of those who make up the local church is disheartening.
 - The fellowship of those with a like faith.
The individuals who are called by God brothers/sisters.
Not identifying with one another well enough to be drawn together.

ACTION:

May we be filled with a love for our local church family that brings out the most and best in us all!