

Readings

Scripture

¹¹ And he gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the shepherds and teachers, ¹² to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ, ¹³ until we all attain to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to mature manhood, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ, ¹⁴ so that we may no longer be children, tossed to and fro by the waves and carried about by every wind of doctrine, by human cunning, by craftiness in deceitful schemes. ¹⁵ Rather, speaking the truth in love, we are to grow up in every way into him who is the head, into Christ, ¹⁶ from whom the whole body, joined and held together by every joint with which it is equipped, when each part is working properly, makes the body grow so that it builds itself up in love.

- Ephesians 4:11-16 (*English Standard Version*)

Reflection

"The life of Jesus Christ creates unique communities of disciples rooted in grace that worship their risen Lord and find themselves compelled to give that life away."

"A disciple is someone who gets the life of Christ, experiences the life of Christ with others, and obeys Jesus' command to give the life away."

"A body needs to be fed, nourished, and cared for, and so we are called together for that purpose. Christ knows the needs of his body. And so we gather in churches around the world where He feeds us, nourishes us, washes away the filth of our sin, grows our roots of faith, refreshes us, comforts us, shows us what parts of His body need extra attention, heals us, and...we respond by giving him praise, glory, honor, and thanks!"

- Rooted Workbook - Body Building (p. 188)

Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for he who promised is faithful. And let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works, not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day drawing near.

- Hebrews 10:23-25 (*English Standard Version*)

And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in one body. And be thankful. Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly, teaching and admonishing one another in all wisdom, singing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, with thankfulness in your hearts to God. And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.

- Colossians 3:15-17 (*English Standard Version*)

Sermon Outline

The Church: Gathered and Scattered

Ephesians 4:11-16

The Rooted Experience

Matt Esswein

The Church is the Body of Christ (Ephesians 4:11-12, 15-16)

The Church Gathered (Hebrews 10:23-25)

- To Worship (Colossians 3:15-17)
 - To Encourage (Hebrews 10:24-25)
 - To Equip (Ephesians 4:11-12, 15-16)
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The Church Scattered - Sent Out (Ephesians 4:15-16)

- To Proclaim Christ's Truth and Love
 - To Display Christ's Peace, Hope, and Love (Colossians 3:15; Hebrews 10:23)
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Reflection Questions (taken in part from the *Serendipity Study Bible for Groups*)

- When you think about the church, what sort of words or pictures come to your mind?
- What has been your experience with the church? Feel free to share the good, bad, and the ugly.
- What does it mean that the church is the body of Christ? Why is it important that Christ is the head?
- What are some of the blessings we might receive as we gather together with our church community?
- What are some creative and considerate ways you can encourage your family, friends, and neighbors as we go through these crazy days of the novel coronavirus? How can you creatively connect with those around you?
- How has your heart story over the years in regard to where your treasure lies?
- Why do you think it is important for the people of the church to remember that we are sent out?
- What might it look like for you to display the peace, hope, and/or love of Christ over the next couple weeks?
- Who are some of the people God might be sending you to love and encourage this week? How can we help you to love them well?