

July 10, 2016 – AM Message – Pastor Jack Austin

Who Am I? A Member in Christ's Body

Who am I? Pictures can help answer the question...

Three passages... four traits (Ephesians 4; 1 Corinthians 12; Romans 12)

The Body of Christ has...

1. Unity – common purpose & interdependence

2. Diversity – unique, but not destructive differences

3. Maturity – mutual and collective growth

4. Ministry – to the church and to a needy world

Then what's the big deal about Adult Bible Fellowship involvement?

- Spiritually speaking: the purpose and values are biblical!

- Practically speaking, at the ABF level:
 - The 'one-another' commands can really be done in smaller settings.
 - There is greater awareness of what is happening in each other's lives.
 - Prayer is more specific – and more people can physically participate.
 - Response to needs is quicker and often more meaningful in small groups... meals, car repairs, hospitalization needs, etc.
 - Bible learning with application happens with the added element of verbal interaction and discussion from fellow believers.
 - Bridges of friendship and relationships are easier to establish and maintain.

Most of the reasons people choose not to participate in ABF groups are self-focused.... What do we need/gain from others? But Paul uses the body metaphor to get us to look at what others need from us.

A final question: *How easy would life be for your body if a foot, hand, eyes or mouth "chose" not to spend time with the rest of your body?*