Sunday, July 19, 2020
Dr. Ricky Cummings
FBC Vidalia
Morning Service
Sermon: The Church as Organism (Part 3):
What is our relationship to each other?

We can summarize Paul’s description of our relationships of interdependence in three ways:

1. We belong to each other.
2. We need each other.
3. We affect each other.

- **We Belong to Each Other**

1 Corinthians 12:12-13 (ESV) For just as the body is one and has many members, and all the members of the body, though many, are one body, so it is with Christ. 13 For in one Spirit we were all baptized into one body—Jews or Greeks, slaves or free—and all were made to drink of one Spirit.

We belong to each other because we first belong to Christ.

- **We Need Each Other**

Robert Banks says, “God has so designed things that the involvement of every person with his special contribution is necessary for the proper functioning of the community.”

1 Corinthians 12:14 (ESV) For the body does not consist of one member but of many.

Paul is concerned with two wrong attitudes that threaten the interdependence of the body: inferiority and superiority.

1. *Inferiority.* There are some who attempt to detach themselves from the body because they feel unimportant in the overall scheme.

   1 Corinthians 12:15-16 (ESV) If the foot should say, “Because I am not a hand, I do not belong to the body,” that would not make it any less a part of the body. 16 And if the ear should say, “Because I am not an eye, I do not belong to the body,” that would not make it any less a part of the body.

2. *Superiority.* There are some who believe they are complete in and of themselves and do not need the other parts of the church.

   1 Corinthians 12:21 (ESV) The eye cannot say to the hand, “I have no need of you,” nor again the head to the feet, “I have no need of you.”

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3. The corrective is interreliance.

We are created for relationship.

- We Affect Each Other

We are called together to leave a holy imprint on each other’s lives, and we do this in two ways: in our ministry and in our relationships.

1. In our ministry (1 Corinthians 12:4-8)

1 Corinthians 12:7 (ESV) To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good.

1 Corinthians 12:4-6 (ESV) Now there are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit; and there are varieties of service, but the same Lord; and there are varieties of activities, but it is the same God who empowers them all in everyone.

a. “Gifts” (1 Corinthians 12:4)

b. “Service” (1 Corinthians 12:5)

“Service” captures the attitude in which we make our contribution.

c. “Empowering” (1 Corinthians 12:6)

Gifts energize, charge, or make a positive impact on the body.

2. In our relationships

1 Corinthians 12:26 (ESV) If one member suffers, all suffer together; if one member is honored, all rejoice together.

1 Corinthians 12:27 (ESV) Now you are the body of Christ and individually members of it.