
First Baptist Dyersburg • Sermon Notes

CONNECTED

Big House Weekend

Sunday, August 10, 2025

Mike Hickman, Senior Pastor

¹¹ Now these are the gifts Christ gave to the church: the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, and the pastors and teachers. ¹² Their responsibility is to equip God's people to do his work and build up the church, the body of Christ. ¹³ This will continue until we all come to such unity in our faith and knowledge of God's Son that we will be mature in the Lord, measuring up to the full and complete standard of Christ.

¹⁴ Then we will no longer be immature like children. We won't be tossed and blown about by every wind of new teaching. We will not be influenced when people try to trick us with lies so clever they sound like the truth. ¹⁵ Instead, we will speak the truth in love, growing in every way more and more like Christ, who is the head of his body, the church. ¹⁶ He makes the whole body fit together perfectly. As each part does its own special work, it helps the other parts grow, so that the whole body is healthy and growing and full of love. (Ephesians 4:11-16, NLT)

God's purposeful plan for Christ-followers is for each one of us to be _____ to other believers through the local church.

This connectedness is not meant to be like that of a _____ at a ballgame, but instead it leads Christ-followers to be _____ involved in the work of the church and in the building up of the body.

God has provided leaders for every church whose responsibility is to equip God's people through the _____ of the Word, so that Christ-followers will _____ to be like Christ as they engage in the

work of ministering to each other and helping the church grow.

- **It is an _____ work of progress.**

And I am certain that God, who began the good work within you, will continue his work until it is finally finished on the day when Christ Jesus returns. (Philippians 1:6, NLT)

- **It means that every _____ is a _____.**

As a result of our connectedness, Christ-followers will:

- 1. Become mature in their faith and knowledge of God's Word – no longer childlike and easily captivated by false teaching.**
- 2. Be able to speak the truth in love, growing in every way to be more like Jesus Christ.**
- 3. Be engaged in the ministry of the church, using their gifts and abilities to help the body be healthy and growing and full of love.**

Living as Children of Light

¹⁷With the Lord's authority I say this: Live no longer as the Gentiles do, for they are hopelessly confused. ¹⁸Their minds are full of darkness; they wander far from the life God gives because they have closed their minds and hardened their hearts against him. ¹⁹They have no sense of shame. They live for lustful pleasure and eagerly practice every kind of impurity.

²⁰But that isn't what you learned about Christ. ²¹Since you have heard about Jesus and have learned the truth that comes from him, ²²throw off your old sinful nature and your former way of life, which is corrupted by lust and deception. ²³Instead, let the Spirit renew your thoughts and attitudes. ²⁴Put on your new nature, created to be like God—truly righteous and holy. (Ephesians 4:17-24, NLT)

We are not to _____ the life and actions of the people around us who are not saved and do not know Christ.

Instead, we are to shine like Jesus in all we do because of the _____ of the Holy Spirit within us, who is _____ our thoughts and attitudes, helping us to live holy and righteous lives.

²⁵ So stop telling lies. Let us tell our neighbors the truth, for we are all parts of the same body. ²⁶ And “don’t sin by letting anger control you.” Don’t let the sun go down while you are still angry, ²⁷ for anger gives a foothold to the devil.

²⁸ If you are a thief, quit stealing. Instead, use your hands for good hard work, and then give generously to others in need. ²⁹ Don’t use foul or abusive language. Let everything you say be good and helpful, so that your words will be an encouragement to those who hear them.

³⁰ And do not bring sorrow to God’s Holy Spirit by the way you live. Remember, he has identified you as his own, guaranteeing that you will be saved on the day of redemption.

³¹ Get rid of all bitterness, rage, anger, harsh words, and slander, as well as all types of evil behavior. ³² Instead, be kind to each other, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, just as God through Christ has forgiven you. (Ephesians 4:25-32, NLT)

Our actions should always reflect our _____ and our _____ to Jesus Christ.

**For God is working in you,
giving you the desire and the power
to do what pleases him.**

(Philippians 2:13, NLT)