

## **Sermon, Proper 16, August 23, 2020, Cheryl Vosburg**

In Matthew we find Peter professing his faith that Jesus is the Messiah, the Living Son of the Living God. That is the foundation that the Christian church is built on. Jesus showed show we should live our lives, clean and upright, not of the world, but apart from it.

That doesn't mean we should go out and distance ourselves in our own little community. Where we only talk to each other. That's not sharing the Good News as it's meant to be shared, we can't bring people to people to Jesus if we don't talk to them, and show them how Jesus works in our lives. Jesus didn't seek out saints He sought out the sinners to change how the world should be.

So how do we change what we dot fit with life today?

1. Anything we build has to have a firm, steady, and stable foundation. First we lay a corner stone, perfect, level, sturdy, solid. Jesus
2. Next we need a strong foundation that's sturdy and solid. Our confession of faith that Jesus is the messiah, Son of God. Once our foundation is secure we can build on it.
3. The church isn't a building. We are the church built on the foundation of the apostles and the prophets with Jesus as the cornerstone.

All believers are joined into this church by faith in Jesus Christ as Savior. It is faith like Peter's that is the foundation of Christ's Kingdom.

In Romans we learn about the gifts that help us to build the kingdom. God has given each of us gifts, there are many different gifts. Some people may have more than one. Most of us have several. These gifts do not give us powers. We are vessels that God uses to carry out His plan to build up His church.

To use these gifts effectively we must; 1. Realize that all gifts and abilities come from God. 2. Understand not everyone has the same gifts. 3. Know who we are and what we do best. 4. Dedicate our gifts to God's service, and not to our personal success. 5. Be willing to utilize our gifts whole heartedly not holding anything back from God's service.

God is transforming us, renewing our minds. We are to live in honor and obey Him. Because God wants only what is best for us. That's why He gave His Son to make our new life possible. We should joyfully give ourselves as living sacrifices for His service.

With these gifts we all become a part of something much bigger than ourselves. We are now a part of the Body of Christ. We are all equal no one is better than the other. We need each other, we need to work together under the command and authority of Jesus.

When we don't work together the body gets sick. Unhealthy habits can become serious health issues. To keep the body healthy requires us all to do our part. Not someone else's, if we see someone who needs help we offer assistance, not push them out of the way and take over. We need to concentrate on our job not everyone else's. Remember God id the brain, Jesus is the heart, and we are each one cell in this body.

Our gifts aren't a job or a chore. It's like a talent, something we enjoy doing. We need to practice just like a musician or a dancer or a gymnast to keep developing and improving. Be proud of the gifts you are given, use them for the Glory of God.

When all the cells of the body work together in unity and harmony then miracles happen, but when cells attack each other illness sets in, and the bad cells have to be fixed or removed. Cells can't live without the body, but the body can live without some cells. Amen.