

Growing

Cultivate - Covenant - Project



“Like newborn infants, long for the pure spiritual milk, that by it you may grow up into salvation— if indeed you have tasted that the Lord is good.” – 1 Peter 2:2-3

September 3 – Covenant

Main Idea: A maturing Christian covenant to love the local church because of Jesus.

Scripture: 1 Corinthians 12:12-20

Heart Change: Local church membership is a question of Gospel obedience, not personal preference.

Open

If you were talking to someone who had never heard about marriage, how would you explain it?

How would incorporate the legal, familial, intimate, and household perspective of your definition?

Reflect

Please have different people read these passages of scripture: 1 Corinthians 12:12-20, Ephesians 5:29-32, and Ephesians 2:19-22.

In these three parts of the Bible, Paul uses three different metaphors to describe the church. What are the metaphors used in these passages?

What is Paul attempting to communicate to the various churches that he is writing to?

Apply

How can we apply the reality of each of these metaphors into our lives?

(For example, the metaphor I highlighted on Sunday was that the church is a body. In reality what does it mean for us to live as a body? We are interdependent not self-sufficient. We all are needed for a fully functioning body, so pledge your self to love and serve the church. Jesus is the head of the body, so we all strive to follow him and submit ourselves to his lordship in the church instead of trying to do it on our own and how we see fit to “do” church.)

How have your prior church experiences helped or hurt your love for the church and your desire to be intimately involved in the lives of others?

What are you learning about the Gospel and the Church?