

You've Got to Get Connected

Series: Connecting with God

May 10, 2009 Pastor Bill Bump

Romans 12:5 (GW) Even though we are many individuals, Christ makes us one body and individuals who are connected to each other.

FOUR METHODS OF WHAT IT MEANS TO BE SPIRITUALLY CONNECTED

1. IT'S LIKE BEING BUILT INTO A BUILDING.

Ephesians 2:20-22 (NLT) We are his house, built on the foundation of the apostles and the prophets. And the cornerstone is Christ Jesus himself. We who believe are carefully joined together, becoming a holy temple for the Lord. Through him you Gentiles are also joined together as part of this dwelling where God lives by his Spirit.

The most important thing about a building is this: The parts have to fit.

In building, a disconnected frame has no support.

2. IT'S LIKE BEING JOINED INTO A BODY.

Ephesians 4:25 (Mes) ...In Christ's body we're all connected to each other, after all. When you lie to others, you end up lying to yourself.

Romans 12:4,5 (LB) Just as there are many parts to our bodies, so it is with Christ's body. We are all parts of it, and it takes every one of us to make it complete, for we each have different work to do. So we belong to each other, and each of us needs all the others.

Truths about spiritual connections:

A. We are all many different parts

B. Everybody's needed

C. We belong to each other

Colossians 2:19 (NLT) But they are not connected to Christ, the head of the body. For we are joined together in his body by his strong sinews, and we grow only as we get our nourishment and strength from God.

In a body, a disconnected part dies.

3. IT'S LIKE BEING ATTACHED TO A VINE.

John 15:4 (LB) "Take care to live in me, and let me live in you. For a branch can't produce fruit when severed from the vine. Nor can you be fruitful apart from me."

Romans 8:16 (GN) God's Spirit joins himself to our spirits to declare that we are God's children.

On plants, a disconnected branch can't bear fruit.

Galatians 5:22,23 (NLT) But when the Holy Spirit controls our lives, he will produce this kind of fruit in us: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control...

The evidence that we are spiritually connected is that we see these nine things in our lives.

4. IT'S LIKE BEING BORN INTO A FAMILY.

I Timothy 3:15 (GW) ...I want you to know how people who are members of God's family must live. God's family is the church....

Romans 15:7 (NLT) So accept each other just as Christ has accepted you; then God will be glorified.

In a family, a disconnected member feels unloved.