

Study Notes based on Sunday 8 July 2018

Tim Blackburn: Growing Together

1 Corinthians 12:12-26

1. Tim said that this passage is a challenge to the idea that our Christian faith is private. John Wesley said, 'There is no such thing a solitary religion.' How do we respond in the light of the passage? In the light of our experience?
2. Perhaps we are over familiar with the body illustration. Look carefully through the 1 Corinthians passage again and tease out the implications of being part of the body of Christ. Does Ephesians 5:29-30 add anything to our findings?
3. Reflect on the expressions – 'unity not uniformity' and 'unity in diversity'. How do you respond to the book title. 'Lord make us one, but not all the same.'
4. Tim noted how the Corinthians had elevated the importance of some gifts at the expense of others. How may we prevent this from happening in a local church setting?
5. Which is easier, 'when one part suffers all suffer', or 'when one part rejoices all rejoice'? How might we avoid being resentful of the 'success' of other Christians?
6. In what ways does the image of the church as a building complement or add to the body analogy? (see 1 Peter 2:4)

John S Smith 10 July 2018