

The Body 20 minutes – keep it tight (kids and a packed service)

Bless Benji, Bless Grace

Call to Worship: Ephesians 6:23,24

Appetizer: wrestled with what to preach but in truth, always do if I'm not in the midst of a series

(I wanted to talk about contending for the faith (that's a play on words with Jude NOT a dig at Russ :-))

Transition: back to Romans for a moment then on to 1 Corinthians

Main Course:

Passages – Romans 12:4-5 (read)

Ephesians 4:15,16 (read)

1 Corinthians 12(:12-13:13)

The body illustration in scripture

We are intricately connected

Maybe we don't always work right...we're often like an uncoordinated JH body fueled by Mountain Dew and Hot Cheeto's while going through a growth spurt and trying to learn how to water ski

No detached nor detachable body parts

imagine your teeth having alternate plans for a better holiday menu

gifted, so serve...formally or informally be a blessing for the spiritual benefit of others

12:24b,25 – care for one another

12:26 – if one suffers, all suffer

(let that sit)

When one suffers, rescue and restore

(sometimes the whole body is suffering – rest, refuel and restore)

12:31b – a more excellent way

Paul does not stop there and he doesn't shift to wedding mode

Ch. 13 is 100% Church Body...LOCAL church body...MESSY church body

Ch 11-14 and really, the book as a whole, is a messy local church body address

13:1,2 – Love not clanging cymbals

13:3-8 – the love passage

13:9-13 – Greatest is love...shocking, without caving on truth, God elevates love and grace

Dessert:

25 years – sometimes bruised but always beautiful body of believers in a broken world

New and 1st Sunday – join us on the journey as we follow Christ

Grace family – keep walking with us as we live out God's Word in community

Loving Care vs Clanging Cymbals

that doesn't mean you can't speak truth or address concerns, it's how you go about it

Love brings grace where it's able, asks for grace when it's needed

and infuses grace into conflict hoping for reconciliation

We are the Body (and Bride) of Christ, a Spiritual Family

Pray

Communion