

Sermon title: BELONG

Series: Vision 2017

Scripture passage: 1 Corinthians 12:4-20

Clearwater Bay International Baptist Church

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We are continuing our series today on the Vision of the church.

What direction do we want to go in?

What should we focus on?

Last week we looked at the most important thing in the universe, and so the most important thing in our lives and in the church...and that is:

BEHOLDING GOD.

If we miss that, we miss everything.

We want to Love God with all our heart, soul, mind and strength.

We want to wake up every day and behold his glory and behold how wonderful he is in the Bible.

We want to look in the gospel mirror daily and see Christ.

Gaze upon his beauty. Stare at him....because...

WE BECOME LIKE WHAT WE BEHOLD.

As we behold him, we are transformed more and more into his likeness.

Today, we move on to the second dimension of our vision, our relationships with one another:

To belong to the church.

Or we could say, "Love one another" as **John 13:34** says, "**A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another: just as I have loved you, you also are to love one another.**"

The big question we want to ask this morning is this:

What does it mean to BELONG to the church?

What does it look like to love one another this way?

Turn in your Bible to **1 Corinthians 12**. We will read verses **4-20**.

4 Now there are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit; 5 and there are varieties of service, but the same Lord; 6 and there are varieties of activities, but it is the same God who empowers them all in everyone. 7 To

each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good. 8 For to one is given through the Spirit the utterance of wisdom, and to another the utterance of knowledge according to the same Spirit, 9 to another faith by the same Spirit, to another gifts of healing by the one Spirit, 10 to another the working of miracles, to another prophecy, to another the ability to distinguish between spirits, to another various kinds of tongues, to another the interpretation of tongues. 11 All these are empowered by one and the same Spirit, who apportions to each one individually as he wills. 12 For just as the body is one and has many members, and all the members of the body, though many, are one body, so it is with Christ. 13 For in one Spirit we were all baptized into one body—Jews or Greeks, slaves or free—and all were made to drink of one Spirit. 14 For the body does not consist of one member but of many. 15 If the foot should say, “Because I am not a hand, I do not belong to the body,” that would not make it any less a part of the body. 16 And if the ear should say, “Because I am not an eye, I do not belong to the body,” that would not make it any less a part of the body. 17 If the whole body were an eye, where would be the sense of hearing? If the whole body were an ear, where would be

the sense of smell? 18 But as it is, God arranged the members in the body, each one of them, as he chose. 19 If all were a single member, where would the body be? 20 As it is, there are many parts, yet one body.

Don't miss the main idea of this passage.

Don't get tied up in trying to figure out what all the gifts are.

The main idea is not the gifts themselves, but that we all have gifts and they are to be used in the church.

We **BELONG** to a body.
We **BELONG** to the church.

It's God's design.
It's all his doing.
He saves us and puts us in a group of people called the Church and says, "This is your family."

And he gives each one of us a gift.

Notice what it says in this chapter:

Verse 7 & Verse 11:

"Each one" is given the manifestation of the spirit.

He apportions to each one individually as he wills.

Everybody gets a gift.

It's not a matter of IF you have one.

You have one!

Verse 18: God arranges it. He choose who gets what gifts.

Verse 24: God composes the body (the church) a certain way.

Verse 28: God appoints people to their task.

So, it's fundamental to understand in the beginning that the church is God's idea.

He didn't ask our permission to put us in the church and he didn't ask us if we wanted a gift.

If you are a Christian, you BELONG to the church, whether you want to or not.

If you are a Christian, you have a gift to be used to build up the church.

What's the purpose of the gifts that the Spirit of God gives to us?

- for the common good
- to care for one another
- to **BUILD UP THE CHURCH.**

In chapter 14 it says 5 times
(verses 4,5,12,17,26)
that the purpose of the gifts is:
to build up the church!

What does it mean to BELONG to the church?

It means to use our gifts to build the church up, to strengthen one another, equip one another, train one another, encourage one another.

Ephesians 4:12 says that **the apostles, prophets, evangelists, shepherds and teachers in the church are for “equipping the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ, until we all attain to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to a full-grown man, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ.”**

Romans 12:4-8 says, **“For as in one body we have many members, and the members do not all have the same function, 5 so we, though many, are one body in Christ, and individually members one of another.**

6 Having gifts that differ according to the grace given to us, let us use them: if prophecy, in proportion to our faith; 7 if service, in our serving; the one who teaches, in his teaching; 8 the one who exhorts, in his exhortation; the one who contributes, in generosity; the one who leads, with zeal; the one who does acts of mercy, with cheerfulness.”

**1 Peter 4:8-11 says,
8 Above all, keep loving one another earnestly, since love covers a multitude of sins. 9 Show hospitality to one another without grumbling. 10 As each has received a gift, use it to serve one another, as good stewards of God's varied grace: 11 whoever speaks, as one who speaks oracles of God; whoever serves, as one who serves by the strength that God supplies—in order that in everything God may be glorified through Jesus Christ. To him belong glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen.**

WE BELONG..... BY BUILDING UP.

But, there's a problem.
In the local church, it's easy to BELONG but not *REALLY* belong.

To say, "*I belong to such and such church*", is very different than **BELONGING** to the church by using your gifts to build her up.

You see, if you're not building up—you really aren't belonging....you're just attending.

Some of you need to join this church as a member. We need your gifts. We need you to serve but you're kind of dating us. We want a proposal.

Some of you BELONG here on paper but we need you to use your gifts to build up the church. God gave you a gift. You need to use it.

Let me just say a couple of ways this will work itself out in the life of our church.

When I talk about building up the body, what I don't mean is creating more programs and making all of you busy by serving in our programs.

Thankfully, we don't have a church building and that keeps us light on programs.

What I mean is relationships.

1. **Groups.** It's my hope and prayer that in the future, every person that's a member of this church is in a small group.

We have a few groups right now but we need a lot more.

I'd love to see some of you start a group at some coffee shop near your workplace.

I'd love to see some of you start a bible study in your apartment building or village.

Sunday is just not enough.

If we are going to Behold God and be transformed into the image of Christ, we need others to help us.

Belong by building up.

And then invite some others into your group who don't know Christ and they'll know we are Christians by the love that we have for one another.

They'll see the love that we have for one another and say, "Wow. I want that."

2. **Accountability.**

I hope that this vision can also give us a structure by which we can check up on each other in love and see how we are doing.

We can easily sit down with one another and say, "Hey brother, how are you doing these days?"

Are you **beholding** God?

Are you worshipping?

Reading your Bible?

What about **Belonging** to the body?

How are you doing in that area?

Are you in a small group?

Using your gifts?

Imagine if we had groups all over the area.

Imagine if we had every person in our church in a small group, belonging to one another...building each other up.

Just think what it would be like if every person @CBIBC was using their gifts to build up. That's God will for us.

So, our vision is this:

Number 1: **Behold God** daily. Seek to know him and love him with all our hearts. Because, we become like what we behold.

Number 2: **Belong to the Body by building up the body.** We want to love one another deeply, like Christ loved us...by building each other up with our God-given gifts.

How are you doing?

Are you using your gifts to build up?

Are you living in close fellowship with others?

Pray about it brothers and sisters.

God has given you a gift.

BELONG....BY BUILDING UP.