

101517 Week two....The Family Clinic This is what we believe...The essence of God is relationship....it is our essence also... You see we are born in relationship, we are wounded in relationship, and we are healed in relationship. The truth is we cannot be truly healed outside of relationship. And that healing cannot reach fullness when the one who created us is excluded. We need God and we need each other... We are wired for relationships.. which means: we need community.. we need identity.. we need to know that we are part of something....God knew this... Paul first describes when and how he calls people to himself ...he now explains how they are a new community they became a new person collectively and individually...or one body as Paul declares.. **we are one body connected to one Head Jesus.. the church should look like this...**

*Eph 4:4* **There is one body and one Spirit--** just as you were called to one hope when you were called-- <sup>5</sup> one Lord, one faith, one baptism; <sup>6</sup> one God and Father of all, who is over all and through all and in all.

- There is one body and one Spirit: We have unity and peace because of what we share in common.
- In Jesus we share one body, one Spirit, one hope, one Lord, one faith, one baptism, and one Father.
- Each of these common areas is greater than any potential difference. We are not left out of anything That God's other children receive...

The challenge is we are all bought into this body ...family church...from different backgrounds ...whom social scientist call Ethos...

**Ethos**, Webster's defines ethos as the fundamental *character or spirit* of a culture; the underlying sentiment that informs the beliefs, customs, or practices of a group or society.

- We must not underestimate the significant role of the spirit of a culture and the distinguishing character of a community in shaping and developing the character of an individual.
- We have been trained by the ethos (spirit of our culture) we are not OK.. this brokenness is also demonstrated by the idea of ...dysfunction..emotional brokenness
- Brokenness can be the result of many factors such as abuse, neglect, abandonment, trauma, or sin injury or illness.

Emotional fragmentation can be the consequence of our own actions or the actions of others. We could be either victim or victimizer. Most often we have a dual role. Hurt people hurt people.

- When a person is emotionally fragmented alienation becomes their theme.
- Alienation becomes Isolation...and Pessimism becomes pervasive.
- Often they are convinced no one loves them or even cares. or they are convinced they do not want or need people...
- **Even when the tears of those who love them are free-flowing, they still feel they are alone. They seem incapable of experiencing or even perceiving love.**
- The entire science of psychiatry is the outgrowth of the study of dysfunction. Yet one thing is clear—there is a growing fragmentation of the human spirit in our society.
- This growing fragmentation of the human spirit is impossible to ignore.
- The result of the ethos of our culture is a profound aloneness.... loneliness ...

**A profound aloneness....** Mother Teresa, never afraid to give a direct and candid answer, looked at the reporter with her sparkling eyes and said simply..."the poverty of Calcutta is physical, but in the United States the poverty is the disease of loneliness."

**"It is the poverty of being nobody to anybody"**

**\*\*\*Which brings us to the church... the assembled or called out ones...** of their ethos into God's Kingdom, and united as a family through faith in, and relationship with Jesus one another – to carry on Jesus' ministry. We are His Body.

**It is built on Jesus and by Jesus for us and with us ...**

- **God's family (His church) is a place where the sick, the hurting and disenfranchised with life come to belong and get well.**
- God's family is comprised of people from every walk of life with untold countless issues. When someone hurts in your family it affects the whole family and the whole family rallies to do their part in helping their brother or sister get well.

**Here is the deal....one can't really be a healthy Christian alone. Christianity, is corporate from its very roots.** It is absolutely essential for God's children to learn to work and play together, fight and make up together...fail and succeed together.. love and grow together... together (in the church) and in the future (in heaven) and in the new earth...

**\*\*\*\*\*So there is no such thing as an isolated individual healthy christian****Why?**

**Because of the person-to-person relationship that is at the very heart of the doctrine of church**

- If you think faith is purely private, a "me and Jesus" thing, you are fooling yourself. That is dysfunctional christian thinking
- You might ask, "Who says you need church to be a good Christian? Who says so?" Well, God says so. Just look at some of the ways that God describes the church in the Bible.

**In God's family it is our Ethos to Care for each other as a command to us and is the draw to a world caught in the web of its destructive Ethos...**

*John 13:34* "A new command (Cultural directive) I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. *35* By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another."

And sixty years later...writes this

*1 John 3:11* For this is the message you heard from the beginning: We should love one another.

*1 John 4:12* No one has ever seen God; but if we love one another, God lives in us and his love is made complete in us.

**Bottom line...you can only love one another, from a distance but only up close and personal....like being part of the body....always making room for more family and parts of the body....**

**What does this look like in practice...? Well let's look to Jesus...**

*JN 13:1* It was just before the Passover Feast. Jesus knew that the time had come for him to leave this world and go to the Father. Having loved his own who were in the world, he now showed them the full extent of his love. full means complete...

- **Full means complete...the spectrum...Nothing is to great to give-nothing to menial to give for the ones I love.. Happy to serve in the way needed...**
- **The full extent of love is being willing to do the most menial service to comfort the beloved...of the greatest...to die for!**

**Set the scene...**As they entered the upper room, the night before he died in their place, everything was ready for the Passover feast including, a pitcher of water, a basin, and a towel waiting to wash the attendees feet prior to sitting to eat, only one thing missing a servant to perform this lowly the task... open sandals were the shoes of the

day...the roads are dusty...feet sweat combination creates a foot odor....tables low problematic...

- This act of footwashing had serious social implications, it was an accepted and needed act of hospitality... **This was not a ceremonial act at all, but a necessity due to the type of sandals worn and the dusty condition of all roads in those days.**
- But one where we would not find those with a higher social status performing.... the task was usually performed by servants
- In Fact The task of foot washing was a lowly and degrading task...it was so menial a job that according to some Jewish sources, Jewish slaves were exempt and the job kept for Gentiles..
- When no servant available a wife would do this for her husband, or a child for their parents or a pupil for their Teacher ...this was considered an act of extreme devotion
- The jealousy and jockeying for position as "head man" or "greatest" in the kingdom would touch so menial a task
- But Jesus needed to teach his disciples that the time to help someone ...is when it in your power to do it...people come before rules or position...
- **This stopped the other disciples, they would rather be uncomfortable physically that do an act which would be humbling...they would not even do it for Jesus.....they still had much to grow in...**

*JN 13:2* <sup>2</sup> The evening meal was in progress, and the devil had already prompted Judas, the son of Simon Iscariot, to betray Jesus. <sup>3</sup> Jesus knew that the Father had put all things under his power, and that he had come from God and was returning to God;

**A everyone seated... Everyone had to pass by it to be seated...it was expected hospitality to clean off the feet of house guests..**

- All things are in his power...the all powerful over everything... demonstrates humility...1) he will put their dirty feet in his hands...2) he will even wash the feet of his enemy....he is kind to both the righteous and unrighteous!

**John 13:**<sup>4</sup> so he got up from the meal, took off his outer clothing, and wrapped a towel around his waist. <sup>5</sup> After that, he poured water into a basin and began to wash his disciples' feet, drying them with the towel that was wrapped around him.

**So Jesus Took off his outer clothes (nice clothes so as not to get it dirty) leaving only his tunic or long underwear to perform the task of the lowest servant in a household...he literally adopted the posture of a slave...**

- It appears the other disciples seemed to accept Jesus gesture...
- But Peter watches and responds in shock

*JN 13:6 He came to Simon Peter, who said to him, "Lord, are you going to wash my feet?"<sup>7</sup> Jesus replied, "You do not realize now what I am doing, but later you will understand."*

- John's telling us that after almost three years of hourly and daily personal mentoring and teaching, miracles and hands on ministry...there is a bunch they still don't understand...in some ways that is comforting...
- **The Lord was in the act of teaching an incredibly effective lesson in love; but the full significance of it would not be realized by any of the apostles until long afterward.**

*JN 13:12 When he had finished washing their feet, he put on his clothes and returned to his place. "Do you understand what I have done for you?" he asked them. <sup>13</sup> "You call me 'Teacher' and 'Lord,' and rightly so, for that is what I am. <sup>14</sup> Now that I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also should wash one another's feet. <sup>15</sup> I have set you an example that you should do as I have done for you. <sup>16</sup> Very truly I tell you, no servant is greater than his master, nor is a messenger greater than the one who sent him. <sup>17</sup> Now that you know these things, you will be blessed if you do them.*

- He served them so that their meal would be more comfortable for all of them...that is the big lesson he wanted to get across to them....
- He thought so much of them ...much more than they thought of themselves or eachother...that He wanted them comfortable eating...

**It was not an hour later**

*LK 22:24 Also a dispute arose among them as to which of them was considered to be greatest.*

- they would understand later...for like us they lived in the Ethos of a world where position..and in their case Religious position rules the day

\*\*\*\*They like us had much to learn...lets equate this to the body of Chrst...they thought the foot was less than other parts of the body...Jesus corrected that misunderstanding... but it took Paul to explain...

\*\*\*\*Paul writes clarifying this in Corinthians...where there was obvious problems of pride...

*1 Corinthians 12: <sup>12</sup> Just as a body, though one, has many parts, but all its many parts form one body, so it is with Christ. <sup>13</sup> For we were all baptized by one Spirit so as to form one body—whether Jews or Gentiles, slave or free—and we were all given the one Spirit to drink. <sup>14</sup> Even so the body is not made up of one part but of many.*

- So no Self condemnation..for that has no place in the body

<sup>15</sup> Now if the foot should say, “Because I am not a hand, I do not belong to the body,” it would not for that reason stop being part of the body. <sup>16</sup> And if the ear should say, “Because I am not an eye, I do not belong to the body,” it would not for that reason stop being part of the body. <sup>17</sup> If the whole body were an eye, where would the sense of hearing be? If the whole body were an ear, where would the sense of smell be? <sup>18</sup> But in fact God has placed the parts in the body, every one of them, just as he wanted them to be. <sup>19</sup> If they were all one part, where would the body be? <sup>20</sup> As it is, there are many parts, but one body.

- So no Self exaltation....Pride has no place in a body! In fact it deforms the body...

<sup>21</sup> The eye cannot say (forbidden) to the hand, “I don’t need you!” And the head cannot say to the feet, “I don’t need you!” <sup>22</sup> On the contrary, those parts of the body that seem to be weaker are indispensable, <sup>23</sup> and the parts that we think are less honorable we treat with special honor. And the parts that are unpresentable are treated with special modesty, <sup>24</sup> while our presentable parts need no special treatment. But God has put the body together, giving greater honor to the parts that lacked it, <sup>25</sup> so that there should be no division in the body, but that its parts should have equal concern for each other. <sup>26</sup> If one part suffers, every part suffers with it; if one part is honored, every part rejoices with it. <sup>27</sup> *Now you are the body of Christ, and each one of you is a part of it.*

1. Each one is a part and performs a function for the body... living in this body as family ....
2. The problem is Relationships take time. Your relationship with God and with the church is no different. Time and commitment
3. To reap the benefit of the community you have to do the work of being in community and that means showing up and pitching in.

**4. But here's the really great news: when you put the time in, a healthy church community is an incredible blessing.**

If you think that closeness does not matter .. Let me prove the point....these have made it to the top of the competition pool

1. Name the ten wealthiest people in the world
2. Name the last ten winners of the Miss America contest
3. Name eight people who have won the Nobel or Pulitzer prize
4. How about the last ten Academy Award winners for best picture
5. Or the last decades' worth of World Series winners?

How do you think you'd do? I wouldn't do well either...With the exception of trivia hounds, none of us remember the headliners of yesterday too well. Surprising how quickly we forget...isn't it?

And these accomplishments I have mentioned are no second rate achievements. These are the best in their fields. But the applause dies, Awards tarnish...Achievements are forgotten. Accolades and certificates are buried with their owners.

Here's another quiz...see how you would do with this one

- Think of three people you enjoy spending time with
- Name ten people who have taught you something worthwhile
- Name five friends who have helped you through a difficult time
- List a few teachers who have aided your journey through life
- Name a half dozen heroes whose stories have inspired you
- Name four people who have made a difference in your life.

**Easier? It would be for me too...You see those people you remembered were people who love you!... people who cared enough to help, people who have been patient with us...who have imparted to us personally what we needed...no big hoopla...what the world would consider of little importance...were extremely important to us**

**you see it is the Acts of love that stand out in our minds and hearts even though it is alien to this world ... yet it touches something deep in us....many of them are right in this room...we get to wash eachothers feet... that is church... that is Jesus that ought to be us! One part of the body helping another part!**

**end**

<sup>13</sup> It was just before the Passover Festival. Jesus knew that the hour had come for him to leave this world and go to the Father. Having loved his own who were in the world, he loved them to the end.

<sup>2</sup> The evening meal was in progress, and the devil had already prompted Judas, the son of Simon Iscariot, to betray Jesus. <sup>3</sup> Jesus knew that the Father had put all things under his power, and that he had come from God and was returning to God; <sup>4</sup> so he got up from the meal, took off his outer clothing, and wrapped a towel around his waist.

<sup>5</sup> After that, he poured water into a basin and began to wash his disciples' feet, drying them with the towel that was wrapped around him.

<sup>6</sup> He came to Simon Peter, who said to him, "Lord, are you going to wash my feet?"

<sup>7</sup> Jesus replied, "You do not realize now what I am doing, but later you will understand."

<sup>8</sup> "No," said Peter, "you shall never wash my feet."

Jesus answered, "Unless I wash you, you have no part with me."

<sup>9</sup> "Then, Lord," Simon Peter replied, "not just my feet but my hands and my head as well!"

<sup>10</sup> Jesus answered, "Those who have had a bath need only to wash their feet; their whole body is clean. And you are clean, though not every one of you." <sup>11</sup> For he knew who was going to betray him, and that was why he said not every one was clean.

<sup>12</sup> When he had finished washing their feet, he put on his clothes and returned to his place. "Do you understand what I have done for you?" he asked them. <sup>13</sup> "You call me 'Teacher' and 'Lord,' and rightly so, for that is what I am. <sup>14</sup> Now that I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also should wash one another's feet. <sup>15</sup> I have set you an example that you should do as I have done for you. <sup>16</sup> Very truly I tell you, no servant is greater than his master, nor is a messenger greater than the one who sent him. <sup>17</sup> Now that you know these things, you will be blessed if you do them.