

## Single & Single-Again TUES NITES Meal, Message & Mixer

### Let's Have Some Fun.....It Doesn't Have To Be Scary!

Jane Stolz' video teaching, handout, and audio Mp3 file of this message will be online to share with others at [www.christiansinglesindenver.com](http://www.christiansinglesindenver.com)

#### Romans 12:1-8

*I appeal to you therefore, brothers, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship. <sup>2</sup> Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect. <sup>3</sup> For by the grace given to me I say to everyone among you not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think, but to think with sober judgment, each according to the measure of faith that God has assigned. <sup>4</sup> For as in one body we have many members, and the members do not all have the same function, <sup>5</sup> so we, though many, are one body in Christ, and individually members one of another. <sup>6</sup> Having gifts that differ according to the grace given to us, let us use them: if prophecy, in proportion to our faith; <sup>7</sup> if service, in our serving; the one who teaches, in his teaching; <sup>8</sup> 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.*

There are three points to make about the church as the body of Christ.

#### **The first point is that the unity of the body of Christ is created in Jesus Christ.**

*One simple way to say what that means is that as each of us is in relationship to Christ, we are therefore in relationship to each other. If I am Christ's brother, and you're Christ's sister, then you are my sister. By creating relationships with himself, Christ creates the relationships in the body.*

This is what it means for you to be "in Christ":

- [1 Corinthians 1:4](#), we receive *grace* in Christ.
- [Romans 3:24](#), our *redemption* is in Christ.
- [Galatians 2:17](#), we are *justified* in Christ.
- [Ephesians 4:32](#), we have *forgiveness* of sins in Christ.
- [Romans 8:1](#), there is *no condemnation* in Christ.
- [2 Corinthians 5:17](#), we are a *new creation* in Christ.
- [Romans 6:23](#), we have *eternal life* in Christ.
- [Philippians 4:19](#), God supplies *all our needs* in Christ.
- [Ephesians 1:3](#), we have every *spiritual blessing* of heaven in Christ
- [Colossians 1:28](#), we will be presented to God *perfect* in Christ.
- [Romans 8:32](#), we cannot be separated from the *love of God* in Christ.

**“So we, though many, are one body in Christ.” Redeemed together; Justified together; Forgiven together; Created anew together; Every need met together; Loved by God together; Perfected together; Living forever together—and all of this glorious unity created in Christ and for the glory of Christ.**

## **Second, individuality is valued in Christ.**

Paul is saying that our true individuality is found—discovered, experienced—in relationship to the body of Christ.

Paul values individuality so highly that he does not fail to tell us how our true individual selves can be known, namely, by living in relationship others and by serving and being served in the body of Christ. And then from that position and identity we express our individual identity with Christ in relation to the world. Love other people with all your heart in reliance on Christ and you will discover who you are.

## **Third, God's grace sustains all ministry in Christ.**

God is sovereign, and God is gracious. He positions his people as he wills. We are not the final builders of the body of Christ. But what it does mean is that we steadily—and with faith and hope—pray toward and work toward harmony in Christ. We think it is a great honor to Christ.

This is why we have small groups, and why we encourage you to find one that frees you to serve and be served in relationships of love.

## **Body Of Christ - Personal Application**

As a part of the church, what can you do to enhance the body of Christ? The body is a holy entity and is to be respected and treated with complete honor and care. The Bible provides several action principles for building up the body of Christ:

- **You are called to promote truth and unity** - Ephesians 4:25 says, "Therefore each of you must put off falsehood and speak truthfully to his neighbor, for we are all members of one body."
- **You are called to service** - 1 Corinthians 12:4-11 outlines the importance of using your God-given spiritual gift. Your gift is unique and equally important. It is essential to the body that you use your special gift in service to God.
- **You are called to share Jesus** - Romans 1:16 says, "I am not ashamed of the gospel, because it is the power of God for the salvation of everyone who believes..." As part of the body of Christ, you are to share your life-changing story with others!
- **You are called to worship** - "It is good to praise the LORD and make music to your name, O Most High, to proclaim your love in the morning and your faithfulness at night" (Psalm 92:1-2).
- **You are called to love each another** - "1 John 4:11 says, "Dear friends, since God so loved us, we also ought to love one another."

## **Fellowship - What Does It Mean?**

"The condition of being together or of sharing similar interests or experiences."

Because of what we experience together, we come to know each other better and on a deeper level. We form incredibly strong bonds of friendship; we sacrifice much for one another, often enduring hardship and, in some instances, even death. God wants us to get together often to share

our experiences, so that we can form solid and very close relationships and help each other through life.

### **Fellowship - Its Benefits**

Fellowship, is necessary for Christians to help them live godly lives and spread the gospel throughout the world. When Christians have regular fellowship with other Christians, they not only receive many benefits, but they are also given the opportunity to sacrifice for their fellow believers.

Christian fellowship also fosters things like trust, hope, a sense of belonging, security, lifelong friendships, faith, patience, selflessness, and best of all, true, unconditional love that can only come from people who have a personal relationship with God, the Author of love. Unless you have given or received some or all of these types of benefits when you meet with others, you are not experiencing real fellowship.

### **Fellowship - Where Can You Get It?**

Fellowship is one of God's principle purposes for human beings. That is why we all feel the need for companionship, love, and belongingness.

### **Christian Fellowship - Christian Companionship**

### **Christian Fellowship - Like-minded Communion**

### **Christian Fellowship - Where Do I Find It?**

### **Christian Fellowship - Why Do I Need It?**

Are you a contributing member of the body of Christ? Are you actively serving God and sharing Him with others? Are you contributing to peace and unity within the body? Do you worship regularly? Take a moment to evaluate your life in light of these principles:

## Discussion Questions:

- *If **stament** Christ's **brothers** **istat**. **By creatin** Christ's relationships with himself, Christ creates the relationships in the body.*

**How can we work on our relationships in this group with one another?**

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**Why do you think we struggle with being “one body in Christ” even as it’s explained above? How might you personally improve in this area?**

- *The Bible provides several action principles for building up the body of Christ:*

*You are called to promote truth and [unity](#)*

*You are called to [service](#)*

*You are called to [share Jesus](#)*

*You are called to [worship](#)*

*You are called to [love each another](#)*

**How do you see yourself playing this out in the Tuesday night gathering? What area do you see your gifts being utilized?**

- **Christ? Are you contributing meaningfully to the body, sharing Him with others? Are you contributing to peace & unity within the body? Do you worship regularly? Take a moment to evaluate your life in light of these principles:**

## HELPFUL TIPS for Great Table Discussions Each table should have a designated Table Host.

### 1. Use God’s ear-to-mouth ratio:

Listen two times more than you speak. 1 or 2 people should not dominate the time, and EVERYONE should contribute during the discussion.

### 2. Smile and be friendly.

Avoid excessive complaining about people or personal problems.

### 3. God’s grace rules the day

Recognize that everyone will not always agree – be gracious and give grace to one another. People are at different places in their spiritual walk and in their life journey.

### 4. Moving the discussion along.

Table host/facilitators are to move the discussion along. They have permission to limit any negative comments, to invite people to answer a question, to ask someone for their perspective, to limit the amount of time some people speak, and to move on to the next question.

### 5. Help for the hurting:

This is a supportive group, but it is not a support group or a therapy session. But if someone is really hurting, take a moment and have someone in the group specifically pray for them.