

From the Family Room

**Creekwood Church of Christ
Mobile, AL**

14 October, 2018

EMPATHY!



But God has harmonized the whole body by giving importance of function to the parts which lack apparent importance, that the body should work together as a whole with all the members in sympathetic relationship with one another. So it happens that if one member suffers all the other members suffer with it, and if one member is honored all the members share a common joy. Now you are together the body of Christ, and individually you are members of Him. 1 Corinthians 12:25-27

"My prayer is not for them alone. I pray also for those who will believe in me through their message, that all of them may be one, Father, just as you are in me and I am in you. May they also be in us so that the world may believe that you have sent me. I have given them the glory that you gave me, that they may be one as we are one— I in them and you in me—so that they may be brought to complete unity. Then the world will know that you sent me and have loved them even as you have loved me." John 17:20-23

We did many activities as a youth group to build unity and cohesiveness. One of the most valuable was to take a ball of yarn and hold the loose end while throwing the ball to another youth group member. The person who threw the yarn then said one good thing about the person who caught the yarn. This continued until every person had thrown the yarn and caught the yarn. The positive words were valuable to each person, but also important was the connection created within the group. As the group held the yarn, each member could feel the tug of other group members.

This is what Christ prayed for in John 17. He wanted His church to be united. He wanted many individual members to be one. Paul was inspired by the Spirit to write in 1 Corinthians 12 that many individual members make one united body. When this is true, we all suffer when an individual member suffers. We all celebrate when one member celebrates. This is sympathetic resonance. The person experiencing either sorrow or joy is like a tuning fork setting off similar feelings within the group.

It is our prayer that Christ will be in each of us and each of us will be in Christ. Then we can be in each other. When this happens we will have the unity for which Christ prayed. We will have the ability to understand and share the feelings of one another. We will have complete communion with each other. We will become like the church we read of in Acts 2. Then we can be an example to the world.

As we fellowship with each other today, tell others you love them and tell them one good thing you like about them. Then maybe we as a united body can feel the tug of all other members.

We pray that each member at Creekwood will feel empathy with all other members. We pray that our example of unity and love will help the world believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God.

RICKY