



Sermon Main Idea:

As an Evangelical Covenant Church, we **affirm the Church as a fellowship of believers**. The church is not an institution, organization, or building. It is a grace-filled fellowship of believers who participate in the life and mission of Jesus Christ. It is a family of equals.

Introduction:

1. Describe the most humble person you know. What impacts do you see that his/her humility has on their relationships with others and the way they interact with them?
2. How have you seen candor done well? What was the end result?

SORP:

Scripture | read 1 Corinthians 12:12-31

Observation | what do we notice? what stands out?

1. Read 1 Corinthians 12:1-11. How does this relate to the sermon text?
2. From the specific examples Paul gives in verses 15-16 and 21, what sorts of problems do you think that the Corinthian church may have been dealing with in that time?
3. What are some examples in the church of the parts that Paul was referring to in verses 22-24?
4. What do you think Paul meant by “Now eagerly desire the greater gifts” in verse 31?
5. Read 1 Corinthians 13:1-13. How does this round out what Paul started with in Chapter 12?

Response | how can we respond in our lives to what we learn?

1. What are some difficult things about having both diversity and unity in a church?
2. What are some practical things that you can do to move your heart and posture toward humility?
3. Consider where you might need to grow in your empathy. What are some barriers to a posture of empathy? How might you move through/past those barriers?
4. Consider where God might be calling you to have a candid conversation. What are some barriers that prevent or cause hesitation in you moving forward in candor? How might you overcome them?
5. How might God be calling YOU to step up and be the church?
6. How might God be calling you to respond to His Word today?

Prayer | ask God to help you live out your response