

Summary of the sermon – October 27, 2013, 14h30

Reading of the Holy Scripture: 1 Corinthians, chapter 12

Theme of the sermon:

Form a community. For you are through the Spirit Christ's body in multiplicity and unity.

1. Form a community

We listen to 'Wise words of Paul'. Through God's grace and by the Holy Spirit Paul has much importance for the Bible. Words full of Spirit and wisdom.

Paul speaks firmly to the congregation of Corinth and also to us. In Corinth there were several quarrels. The congregation was very divided. In our time the individual believer is central in our mind and society. Therefore Paul says: Form together a community.

2. Through the Spirit

It was a difficult relation between Paul and the congregation of Corinth. They extraordinarily loved the spectacular gifts of the Holy Spirit, for example speaking in tongues of ecstasy and gifts of healing. They asked Paul a question about that spiritual gifts.

Paul says: Believing in Jesus Christ is the big gift of the Holy Spirit to men, to all believers. The Triune God is the source of all gifts and tasks in the congregation. And they are very different. And "it is the same Spirit, distributing them separately to each individual at will."

There is also one purpose for the gifts: building up the congregation of Christ.

3. Christ's body

"Now you are Christ's body..." (verse 27)

Paul introduces the image of our body. Everyone understands that image. It comes close to us all. We all have many limbs and organs. So do the body of Christ. And each of us is a limb or organ of it.

That underlines your / our identity. We are all brought into one body by baptism, in the one Spirit. So we were connected to Jesus Christ, our Lord.

4. In multiplicity and unity

One body and many limbs and organs. All parts of the body have a different place and task. They all need each other: hand and foot, eye and ear etc. And the humbler parts receive special honour. All the organs of the body may feel the same concern for one another. See verse 26. God created it in that manner.

The congregation is Christ's body in multiplicity and unity. That's our identity. We have to work at this unity.

The community in Christ is visible at the Lord's Supper: one loaf, one body.

We read Ephesians 4,3-6.