

**“Planted in the Body”
Location Pastors
“Serving”
July 6th and 7th**

Intro:

Welcome and Honor Pastor Matt and Pastor Sarah.

Speak life into my location... “thank you for letting pastor you”

So, the last two weeks we have been learning and growing in this Planted Series.

God is teaching us so much about what it means to be Planted in the House of God, the Family of God and today we are going to talk about what it means to be planted in the body.

Have everyone stand for the reading of scripture, and have them all read it together.

Psalm 92:12-13 "The righteous will flourish like a palm tree, they will grow like a cedar of Lebanon; planted in the house of the Lord, they will flourish in the courts of our God.

v. 14-15 "They will still bear fruit in old age, they will stay fresh and green, proclaiming, “The Lord is upright; he is my Rock, and there is no wickedness in him.”

Let’s pray...

Recap last Week:

Build Tension:

Being planted has so many different angles...

At next level church we are a house, family, body

House ...

Family ...

Body ...

Pastor Sarah's Said about the house, family, and body

What does it mean to be planted in the Body in, it means that every part of the body has to be functioning to its greatest capacity and potential, but us to have kingdom impact.

Because when one part of the body is not at functioning at capacity and potential, the body will not be as impactful as it could be.

Another way to say it would be when there are multiple parts of the body not working or not healthy the rest of the body is not healthy either.

Tell the story about tearing my ACL.

- It was a sunny day here in Southwest Florida
- it was the beginning of one of my favorite weeks of the year... It was our Staff Retreat.
- we were all sitting here in the auditorium waiting to go out and start the fun.
- Pastor Matt and Pastor Sarah were setting expectations for the time together and reminded us of one of our behavioral core values of "FUN!"
- Then we went outside to play a game that honestly, I had wanted to trying for years.
- BUBBLE SOCCER (Slide of Picture of someone playing bubble soccer)
- Looks like fun right...looks safe right...NOPE
- I got into this bubble ball and felt invisible.
- I run up to the soccer ball, planted my left foot and kicked that ball as hard as I could.
- What I did see until it was too late was another guy coming to hit me on my left side.
- I heard the loudest "pop," I mean it was so loud that if I told you the day this happened, you will say oh yeah I remember hearing that.
- I was trying to get out of the bubble ball but I was sweaty and it was stuck too me.
- Finally got out and tried to get to the car but I passed out and took a fun ride in a ambulance.
- A week later I found out I tore my ACL and Fractured my tibia

Can I tell you that it was one small part of my body but it effect my whole body.
-my back
-my hip
-my foot

TS: The same is true with us in the body of Christ.

1 Corinthians 12:12- 14 TPT

Just as the human body is one, though it has many parts that together form one body, so too is Christ. For by one Spirit we all were immersed and mingled into one single body. And no matter our status—whether we are Jews or non-Jews, oppressed or free—we are all privileged to drink deeply of the same Holy Spirit.

In fact, the human body is not one single part but rather many parts *mingled into one*.

You see God has put us together as the body of Christ. When we say yes to Jesus we join in the House, family and body...

Which means when we join we are not alone as one part function on its own but mingled together as one body.

But... it is very important to know what part we play in this body of Christ. So, that we can function together.

So, the question must be how do we play our part in the body in a healthy and life giving way?

That's what we want to talk about today...

3 Ways to play our part in the body of Christ

The 1st way we play our part in the body of Christ is to...

1. Recognize the part of the body God has made you to be.

- a. This first must start with that knowing who and who's we are!
- b. The bible says that when we say yes to Jesus we become joint heirs, brothers and sisters and in turn sons and daughters of God.

Acts 17:28

It is through him that we live and function and have our identity; just as your own poets have said, 'Our lineage comes from him.

- c. Then with that understanding we see that we are each giving a unique and vital part in the body of Christ.

1 Corinthians 12:27

You are the body of the Anointed One, and each of you is a unique and vital part of it.

- d. And in that part, we have being giving divine gifts to contribute to the growth of all...

Ephesians 4:16

For his "body" *has been formed in his image* and is closely joined together and constantly connected as one. And every member *has been given divine gifts* to contribute to the growth of all; and as *these gifts* operate effectively throughout the whole body, we are built up and made perfect in love.

- e. Playing that part in the body of Christ and functioning in those divine gifts to contribute to the growth of all is what lasting kingdom fruit looks like.
- f. As a church, we invite you to go to Empowerment Track that's what we are asking you to discover...
 - i. Your place in the body of Christ
 - ii. And to discover your divine gifts.
- g. If this is the body that God is calling you to, you are uniquely designed to be here.
- h. And your gifts are designed to help grow and contribute to others in this house.

MIP: My gifts to lead and pastor in this house. Talk about that I was insecure about my gifts...I was told I was a great pastor but I was not a great leader, but that wasn't what God said about me...spiritually gifts test, pastor leader

App: - If you don't know what part of the body you are.

-Go to the Empowerment Track (Slide with link to empowerment track sign up)

-If you have been to the empowerment track and you still don't know email me (Slide of email)

Some of us know how we were made and we just need to trust God!

The 2ND way we play our part in the body of Christ is to...

2. Accepting your part in the body of Christ.

- a. When we accept the part of the body we are we can step into the gifts we have been given.
- b. But if we spend time comparing and not accepting we miss out on the growth opportunity

1 Corinthians 12:15 – 20 TPT

So if the foot were to say, "Since I'm not a hand, I'm not a part of the body," it's forgetting that it is still a vital part of the body. ¹⁶ And if the ear were to say, "Since I'm not an eye, I'm not really a part of the body," it's forgetting that it is still an important part of the body.

- c. If we were all one part of the body we wouldn't be a body at all.
- d. And we would miss out on the joy of each person functioning in their part.

Think of it this way. If the whole body were just an eyeball, how could it hear sounds? And if the whole body were just an ear, how could it smell different fragrances? But God has carefully designed each member and placed it in the body to function as he desires. *A diversity is required*, for if the body consisted of one single part, there wouldn't be a body at all! So now we see that there are many differing parts and functions, but one body.

- e. Where do we need to accept our role in the body and start to grow in our gifts to help bring growth to the whole body?
- f. If we don't it's not just us missing out but the whole body...
- g. How do we do this.
 - i. We have to be Consistent
 - 1. When it gets hard and it's easier to look across the room and compare we must keep our eyes on Jesus.
 - ii. Accepting looks like listen more to what He is calling us to do.
 - iii. We need to pay more attention to God and the calling on our lives.
 - 1. I felt this for us this week...
 - a. Some of us aren't even hearing the calling to be the part that God has called us to be. Because we are so busy and have so much noise in our lives...
 - b. ILL> Someone on stage with headphones on preoccupied and distracted from the calling
 - c. Someone with a sign "your apart of the body and you are gifted"
 - d. When this is happening in our lives... there is only one avenue for God to get through to you.
 - e. And more times than not, that avenue evolves pain.

MIP: Remember last week... "I am lying in the bellying of the plan just working for my next high."

App: What does this mean for us...

- a. Some of us need to stay consistent
- b. Ask God for endurance.
- c. Some of us need to be still and take away the distractions and noise to hear God before he has to use the pain of our decisions to get our attention.

The final way we play our part in the body of Christ is to...

3. Start functioning in the body.

- a. Once we know our part and have accepted it we have to start functioning in it.
- b. The bible says this is worship to our heavenly father.

Romans 12:1 NIV

Therefore, I urge you, brothers and sisters, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God—this is your true and proper worship.

- c. Which means, when we join a serve team and serve others with your gifts it's a true and proper worship.
 - i. We are not just asking you to serve to fill a hole but we are asking you to bare fruit that will change others' lives and your own.
 - ii. There is a difference between serving and volunteering.
 - 1. Volunteering is something we do for free
 - 2. But, serving cost us something. But on the other side of it is so much blessing for others.
 - iii. And when we start to function in our place in the body with our gifting's the bible says we start building the body of Christ together.

Eph. 4:11-3

So Christ himself gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the pastors and teachers, to equip his people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up until we all reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of the Son of God and become mature, attaining to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ.

MIP: Can you tell you that this is when I fell the most alive and fulfilled. It's when I know my part, accept my part and function in my part.

Eph. 4:30 – ³⁰ And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, with whom you were sealed for the day of redemption.

“When we have a gift, and don't use it, it grieves the Holy Spirit.

ILL. Pastor Matt buying me a Cubs hat and I don't wear it. (Bring Hat on stage)

God is calling us to be planted in the body of Christ to function in our part with our gifts to bare kingdom fruit that will build us his church.

One more thing that I want us to pray through before we leave today.

There is a big bible word called Idolatry: Which means putting any other God or thing in the place that is rightfully His.

We believe that one of the greatest ways for us to not be planted in the body is by allowing this to happy

App: So, there are some very practical action steps this weekend

- a. If you haven't been through Empowerment Track Sign up here ([Slide of sign up link](#))
- b. If you have been but you're still trying to find your place lets meet ([Slide with my email](#))
- c. If you have been, and you're ready to join a team sign up here. ([Slide of sign up for serve team](#))

Close in Prayer...