Week 4-Mutuality

Vision and Objective:

Access and equality in the flourishing community are not based on ability or influence, but in mutual self-giving, where everyone’s joys, as well as pains, are shared. Mutuality leads to unity.

Opening Prayer

Our Father, we come this evening to study and learn from your word for as the Psalmist said, “Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path”. Please use this time that we have together as that lamp and help us to keep to the path that you have put before us. In the name of Jesus, your son, amen.

Scripture Passage: 1 Corinthians 12:12-28 NRSV

<https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=1+Corinthians+12%3A12-28&version=NRSV>

Context & Background

Corinth was a prosperous port city that was culturally diverse with huge disparities between the wealthy and the poor. Paul’s letter to the church addresses status and class issues. The gifts and skills valued in the church were based on what their culture valued. The goal was for unity through mutuality.

Questions to Discuss:

What are some examples of mutuality? Where have you seen deep commitment and both joys and pains shared in a relationship or community? Consider personal examples, movies, or books. Town in Canada that took plane on 911; HSCBA Rescue Boat fund raiser; on 911 Lee’s friends in France-accommodated American; HSCBA-raised funds for Cancer victim-people came out of woodwork

What stands out about the metaphor Paul uses for the church? What is repeated?

Body; each member; all members needed Brain functions based on signals sent by body parts. Interconnected with all people. Mormon family working together as a unit.

What should unite our community? (compare and contrast with the community at Corinth) Class and Education disparities, employment (protection for workers) disparities,

Why might this call to unity be challenging? What barriers need to be overcome? (compare and contrast with the community at Corinth)

Income and education disparities. Job opportunities.

Understand, Acceptance, and Tolerance for differences

Who are perceived to be “insiders” vs “outsiders” of the fellowship? Why?

Anyone not in the “core” or regularly attending services

Who actually shares life together? Who shares secrets? Are you close enough to tell each other hard truths? Sometimes

What is at stake? Why is this message of unity important for the church? So that we can be effective in our outreach program

Closing Prayer

May the road rise up to meet you. May the wind be always at your back. May the sun shine warm upon your face; the rains fall soft upon your fields and until we meet again, may God hold you in the palm of His hand.

*Old Gaelic blessing found at: https://www.lords-prayer-words.com/times/closing\_prayer.html*