

B.R.E.A.D

Meeting # 1

The Bible Reading Part: We are the Church - One Body

1 Cor. 12:12 The body is a unit, though it is made up of many parts; and though all its parts are many, they form one body. So it is with Christ. 13 For we were all baptized by one Spirit into one body--whether Jews or Greeks, slave or free--and we were all given the one Spirit to drink. 14 Now the body is not made up of one part but of many. 15 If the foot should say, "Because I am not a hand, I do not belong to the body," it would not for that reason cease to be part of the body. 16 And if the ear should say, "Because I am not an eye, I do not belong to the body," it would not for that reason cease to be part of the body. 17 If the whole body were an eye, where would the sense of hearing be? If the whole body were an ear, where would the sense of smell be? 18 But in fact God has arranged the parts in the body, every one of them, just as he wanted them to be. 19 If they were all one part, where would the body be? 20 As it is, there are many parts, but one body. 21 The eye cannot say to the hand, "I don't need you!" And the head cannot say to the feet, "I don't need you!" 22 On the contrary, those parts of the body that seem to be weaker are indispensable, 23 and the parts that we think are less honorable we treat with special honor. And the parts that are unpresentable are treated with special modesty, 24 while our presentable parts need no special treatment. But God has combined the members of the body and has given greater honor to the parts that lacked it, 25 so that there should be no division in the body, but that its parts should have equal concern for each other. 26 If one part suffers, every part suffers with it; if one part is honored, every part rejoices with it. 27 Now you are the body of Christ, and each one of you is a part of it.

The Discussion Part:

1. How many 'church families' have you been a part of in your life time? Describe them. In what way have these different churches affected your understanding of what the church is supposed to be and do?
2. One theory of church growth is simply, "Find a need and fill it." If you were asked what needs the church could try to fulfill for the unchurched in the Bottineau area, what do you think they would be? If we asked the question of you, what would they be?
3. If you were to think of the 'church' as a body, as the Apostle Paul does in this text, what part of the body would you consider yourself to be and why? What is the role / function of that part of the body for the sake of the whole body?
4. Verse 25 above talks of "division in the body". What happens to a body when there is division within it? Is division healed by being concerned for every part of the body [as is

suggested in that verse]? How can we become more concerned for one another in the body of Christ?