

Read Galatians 6:1-10

From a young age, children struggle to be independent: "I can do it myself!" We value people who can "pull themselves up by their own bootstraps." But Christ has a different idea about how we should interact with one another. We should be caring for one another and involved in each other's lives.

This connectedness means we care enough about our neighbors to find out what burdens they carry. God nudges us to hear the concerns of their hearts, even if we don't know their names. Do you have an awareness of the struggles of others around you? If not...then all you need to do is ask! Listening is the best way sometimes to begin carrying a burden together. True empathy is a healer.

1 Corinthians 12:27 "Now you are the body of Christ, and each one of you is a part of it."

Romans 12:5 "In Christ we, though many, form one body and each member belongs to all the others." When we are saved in Jesus Christ, we become part of the church, and each of us is a valuable member of the body of Christ. Some people think of the church as a stuffy, boring club, but we are all saved to be a part of something larger than just our lonesome selves. Together, in the body of Christ, we can do greater things to encourage each other in the faith and bring Christ's love and peace to a broken world.

1 Corinthians 1:7 "You do not lack any spiritually gift as you eagerly wait for our Lord Jesus." Every person in the body of Christ is important. Spiritually gifted believers must use their gifts for the common good. The Holy Spirit empowers each of us to use our gifts and abilities for the good of others.

When have you sensed that God particularly strengthened or gifted you to serve someone else or the church in general? How are you using your spiritual gifts for the common good of your community? What is one thing that stops you from serving God fully?

Prayer:

Thank you, Lord, for teaching us that everyone in the body of Christ is important. Help us to know and appreciate our gifts so that we may use them to help others and glorify You. Amen

September 2, 2018

Series: **Better We**

*Connecting for Ministry*

Pastor Rick Rufenacht



**Acts 2:41 - 47**

**Our Better Emphasis = People**

Gal 6:3      John 13:34

**Our Better Focus = Ministry**

Titus 3:13-14      Heb 6:9-11      Heb 9:14

**Our Better Commitment = Fellowship**

Phil 1:3-6      1 Cor 12:14-27