Sermon Notes – 07.03.2022 Holding it Together

Jesus Christ Is the Answer – The Question: How Do We Hold it All Together? (Sometimes We Don't)

Colossians 1:15-23 "He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation. 16 For by Him all things were created, *both* in the heavens and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities—all things have been created through Him and for Him. 17 **He is before all things, and in Him all things hold together.** 18 **He is also head of the body**, the church; and He is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, so that He Himself will come to have first place in everything. 19 For it was the *Father's* good pleasure for all the fullness to dwell in Him, 20 and through Him to reconcile all things to Himself, having made peace through the blood of His cross; through Him, *I say,* whether things on earth or things in heaven. 21 And although you were formerly alienated and hostile in mind, *engaged* in evil deeds, 22 yet **He has now reconciled you in His fleshly body through death**, in order to present you before Him holy and blameless and beyond reproach— 23 if indeed you continue in the faith firmly established and steadfast, and not moved away from the hope of the gospel that you have heard, which was proclaimed in all creation under heaven, …"

Christ is First – "He is before all things, and in Him all things hold together"

Christ Created All Things - Through Him and For Him – Even the Principalities & Powers that We Wrestle

Head of the Body – Every Ministry in the Church Must Originate in Him

Christ Brought Us to God – He Reconciled us to God – Jesus *said to him, "…no one comes to the Father but through Me," Jesus is, "…the way, and the truth, and the life"

> **Hebrews 1:3** And He is the radiance of His glory and the exact representation of His nature, and **upholds all things by the word of His power.** When He had made purification of sins, He sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high,

What is It About Jesus that Gives Us the Ability to Hold Together and Stand Against the Winds?

> **We Have Jesus, We Have the Gospel, We Have the Love of Christ, We Have His Grace and Our Faith, We have what Christ gives us to minister to one another**

Romans 5:1-2 Therefore, having been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, 2 through whom also **we have obtained our introduction by faith into this grace in which we stand**; and we exult in hope of the glory of God.

1 Corinthians 16:13 Be on the alert**, stand firm in the faith,** act like men, be strong.

Colossians 3:12-17 So**, as those who have been chosen of God**, holy and beloved, put on a heart of compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience; 13 bearing with one another, and forgiving each other, whoever has a complaint against anyone; just as the Lord forgave you, so also should you. 14 **Beyond all these things *put on* love, which is the perfect bond of unity**. 15 Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in one body; and be thankful. 16 Let the word of Christ richly dwell within you, with all wisdom teaching and admonishing one another with psalms *and* hymns *and* spiritual songs, singing with thankfulness in your hearts to God. 17 Whatever you do in word or deed, *do* all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks through Him to God the Father.

We Hold Together by All That Christ Ministers Through the Body

Ephesians 4:15-16 but speaking the truth in love, we are to grow up in all *aspects* into Him who is the head, *even* Christ, 16 from whom the whole body, being fitted and **held together by what every joint supplies**, according to the proper working of each individual part, causes the growth of the body for the building up of itself in love.

> **By that which every joint supplieth -** Literally, "through every joint of supply;" that is, which affords or ministers mutual aid. The word "joint" - means anything which binds, fastens, secures; that which "unites or fastens" together the different parts of the frame - the blood vessels, cords, tendons, and muscles. The meaning is, that every such "means of connecting one part of the body with another" ministers nourishment, and that thus the body is sustained. One part is dependent on another; one part derives nourishment from another; and thus all become mutually useful as contributing to the support and harmony of the whole. Thus, it furnishes an illustration of the "connection" in the members of the church, and of the aid which one can render to another. *Albert Barnes ~ Notes on the New Testament*

There is Value in Being Able to Stand Alone – And Often, That's How it Feels – But It is Not God's Ideal

That's Why He Says, "I will Never leave you or Forsake you," (Hebrews 13:5)

John 14:18 "I will not leave you as orphans; I will come to you. (The promise of The Holy Spirit)

Sometimes all we can give is our presence and the potential in the presence of the Holy Spirit with us.

A New Look at a Familiar Scene – Ephesians was not written to an individual – It was to "The saints"

Ephesians 6:10-18 **Finally, be strong in the Lord and in the strength of His might**. 11 **Put on the full armor of God**, so that you will be able to stand firm against the schemes of the devil. 12 For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the powers, against the world forces of this darkness, against the spiritual *forces* of wickedness in the heavenly *places.* 13 Therefore, take up the full armor of God, so that you will be able to resist in the evil day, and having done everything, to stand firm. 14 Stand firm therefore, HAVING GIRDED YOUR LOINS WITH TRUTH, and HAVING PUT ON THE BREASTPLATE OF RIGHTEOUSNESS, 15 and having shod YOUR FEET WITH THE PREPARATION OF THE GOSPEL OF PEACE; 16 in addition to all, taking up the shield of faith with which you will be able to extinguish all the flaming arrows of the evil *one.* 17 And take THE HELMET OF SALVATION, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God. 18 **With all prayer and petition pray at all times in the Spirit,** and with this in view, be on the alert with all perseverance and **petition for all the saints,**

Our Times Together are Opportunities to Build Unity and Actively Stand & Strive Together

Philippians 1:27-28 Only conduct yourselves in a manner worthy of the gospel of Christ, so that whether I come and see you or remain absent, **I will hear of you that you are standing firm in one spirit, with one mind striving together for the faith of the gospel;** 28 in no way alarmed by *your* opponents—which is a sign of destruction for them, but of salvation for you, and that *too,* from God.