A BETTER CHURCH BEGINS WITH ME
1 Corinthians 12:20-26

INTRODUCTION:
1. Someone has said, "If you want good government, be a good citizen."
2. If we want a better church, the place to begin is with ourselves.
   A. Jesus died for the church, to make it the best that is possible.
   B. This morning we want to look at some things that will serve to make the church the best that it possibly can be.

BODY:
1. IF YOU WANT THE CHURCH TO BE BETTER REALIZE THAT YOU ARE IMPORTANT
   A. You must realize that you are important, no matter what you can do - 1 Corinthians 12:20-26.
   B. The Lord is depending on you to do your part – Eph. 4:15, 16.
      1. Each of us has a part in the work of the church, just as each body part has a function relative to the whole - 1 Cor. 12:14-24.
   C. The Lord is depending on you to help the church grow and function.

2. IF YOU WANT THE CHURCH TO BE BETTER YOU MUST DO SOMETHING FOR IT
   A. You can be kind, tenderhearted, forgiving, and ready to help one another - Eph. 4:31, 32; Gal. 6:1, 2.
      1. As Christians we need to learn to not only ask what can I do to help, but when can I do it?
   B. You can help the church by building it up instead of criticizing what it is trying to do - 1 Cor. 10:10.
      1. I don't know why it is this way, but it seems as if no matter what is attempted, some have to complain.
      2. It seems that the attitude often is, if brethren aren't complaining, they aren't happy.
         A. And what a miserable life this leads to.
   C. One of the best ways you can help the church is to guard your life daily against doing or saying anything that would bring shame or reproach on it.

3. IF YOU WANT THE CHURCH TO BE BETTER YOU MUST INVITE OTHERS TO SHARE ITS BLESSINGS
   A. The Christian life is the best and most rewarding life that one can live.
      1. We must not only believe this to be true, we must also live as if we believe it.
   B. The Christian is blessed materially and spiritually - 2 Cor. 9:6; Eph. 1:3.
      1. There are no limits to the blessings of God, as He pours them out on the faithful child of God, except for the self-imposed limits that we set - Lk. 6:38; Gal. 6:7, 8.
   C. When you bring a friend to Bible classes and worship you are helping that friend understand that God has provided many blessings for those in Christ.
   D. A church that grows is a church that is concerned and really loves the lost - Mk. 10:21; Acts 2:47.
CONCLUSION:
1. A better church begins with you and the time to begin is now.