**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. A song writer stated, “I’m looking at the man in the mirror…”

3. If [we] want a BETTER church, the place to begin is with “ME”.

 A. Jesus died for the church, to make it the BEST that it is.

 1. Let’s look at a few things to ensure the church is the BEST [it] can possibly be.

**BODY:**

**1. REALIZE [WE] ARE IMPORTANT (Eph 4:15, 16)**

 A. [We] must realize everyone is important, ***NO*** matter what one can do.

 B. The Lord is depending on [us] to do [our] part

 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 [us] to ensure the church grow and function, appropriately.

**2. [WE] MUST DO SOMETHING FOR IT (Gal 6:1, 2)**

 A. [We] must be kind, tenderhearted, forgiving and ready to help one another (Eph 4:31, 32).

 1. As Christians [we] have learned to ***NOT*** only ask what can I do, **BUT** when to do it.

 B. [We] can help the church by building [it] up instead of criticizing what it is trying to do.

 1. 1 Cor 10:10

 A. It seems as if ***NO*** matter what is attempted, some have to complain.

 2. It seems the attitude often is, if brethren are ***NOT*** complaining, they are ***NOT*** happy.

 A. What a miserable LIFE this is and the negative behavior it breaths to create.

 C. One of the best ways [we] can help the church is to guard [our] daily LIFE against doing

 or saying anything that would bring shame or reproach on it.

**3. [WE] MUST INVITE OTHERS TO SHARE IN ITS BLESSINGS (2 Cor 9:6)**

 A. The Christian LIFE is the BEST and most rewarding LIFE one could ever possibly LIVE.

 1. [We] must ***NOT*** only believe this to be true, **BUT** LIVE as we believe.

 B. The Christian is blessed materially and Spiritually (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, [we] set (Lk 6:38; Gal 6:7, 8).

 C. When [we] bring a friend to Bible class and worship, [we] are helping that friend to

 understand God has provided many blessings for those of [us] in Christ, **BUT** LIVING it.

 D. A church that grows is one that is concerned and loves the lost (Mk 10:21; Ac 2:47).

**CONCLUSION:**

1. A BETTER church begins with [us] and now is the TIME to begin this journey in Christ.

 A. 2 Cor 5:10 – 20