**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 is possible.

 B. Let’s look at some things that will serve to make the church the best it can possibly be.

**BODY:**

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

 A. We must realize that 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 help the church grow and function, appropriately.

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

 A. We can be kind, tenderhearted, forgiving, and ready to help one another

 1. Eph 4:31, 32

 2. As Christians we have learned to not only ask what can I do, but when can I 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 that the attitude often is, if brethren aren’t complaining, they aren’t happy.

 A. What a miserable life this is and the negative behavior it breaths.

 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 that one could ever possibly live.

 1. We must not only believe this to be true, we 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 understand

 that God has provided many blessings for those of us in Christ.

 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.