**Sermon Title: The Guidelines for Interdependence in the Church**

**Sermon Text: 1 Corinthians 12:20-31**

**Sermon Purpose: To call the hearer to realize the interdependence of the whole body, on the individual, unique members of the body.**

**Sermon Proposition: There are 4 facts about the interdependence of the church members.**

**Introduction:** John Wesley has well said, “There is no such thing as solitary Christianity.” The theme of this section is interdependence, dependence, absent of independence.

**I. The undeniable worth of each member of the church. Vv.20-23**

**II. The unifying worth of each member of the church. Vv.24-25**

**III. The undiminished worth of each member of the church. V.26**

**IV. The ultimate worth of each member of the church. Vv.27-31**

**I. The undeniable worth of each member of the church. Vv.20-23**

 A. The undeniable **need** shows the worth. Vv.20-22

 The implication cannot be denied. Every believer

 1. needs to thank God for who they are and for their gifts.

 2. needs to use their gifts with all diligence and fervency.

 B. The undeniable **honor** shows the worth. V.23

**II. The unifying worth of each member of the church. Vv.24-25**

**III. The undiminished worth of each member of the church. V.26**

 A. God has “tempered” (sunekarasen) means to “mix, combine, and blend together” the members to keep them from **clashing**, **division**, **jealousy**, **pride** within the church.

 B. God has blended together the members to create a **natural** and **normal** care unit for one another.

 **Matthew 25:35-36** `for I was hungry and you gave Me food; I was thirsty and you gave Me drink; I was a stranger and you took Me in; **36** `I *was* naked and you clothed Me; I was sick and you visited Me; I was in prison and you came to Me.'

 **1 Corinthians 1:10** Now I plead with you, brethren, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that you all speak the same thing, and *that* there be no divisions among you, but *that* you be perfectly joined together in the same mind and in the same judgment.

 **2 Corinthians 13:11** Finally, brethren, farewell. Become complete. Be of good comfort, be of one mind, live in peace; and the God of love and peace will be with you.

 **Philippians 1:27** Only let your conduct be worthy of the gospel of Christ, so that whether I come and see you or am absent, I may hear of your affairs, that you stand fast in one spirit, with one mind striving together for the faith of the gospel,

 **1 Peter 3:8** Finally, all *of you be* of one mind, having compassion for one another; love as brothers, *be* tenderhearted, *be* courteous;

 **Romans 15:1** We then who are strong ought to bear with the scruples of the weak, and not to please ourselves.

**IV. The ultimate worth of each member of the church. Vv.27-31**

 A. Realize that God has **placed** and **gifted** each member in the church. V.27

 **Ephesians 4:12** for the equipping of the saints for the work of ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ,

 **1 Corinthians 12:11** But one and the same Spirit works all these things, distributing to each one individually as He wills.

 B. Realize though **equal** and **valuable** not everyone has the same gifts in the church. Vv.28-30

 **Matthew 25:15** "And to one he gave five talents, to another two, and to another one, to each according to his own ability; and immediately he went on a journey.

 **Ephesians 2:19-22** Now, therefore, you are no longer strangers and foreigners, but fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God, **20** having been built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ Himself being the chief *cornerstone*, **21** in whom the whole building, being joined together, grows into a holy temple in the Lord, **22** in whom you also are being built together for a dwelling place of God in the Spirit.

 C. Realize that every believer in the church should **covet** the most important gift. V.31