

## ***Sunday Sermon Notes Placebo #5 "Church"***

### **Church is a real good thing!**

Church is a special place

Church is a great activity

Church is a wonderful family

### **But church can be a dangerous placebo:**

When is a place I go  
Without ever making a decision

When it is something I do  
Without really being changed

When it is enjoying other Christians  
Without truly knowing Jesus

### ***It is never enough to just "play church"***

### **Three things that really matter:**

Have I accepted Jesus as my personal Savior?  
*Romans 10:9-13*

Have I made Jesus the Lord of my life?  
*Romans 12:1*

Am I being transformed into the likeness of Jesus?  
*Romans 12:2*

## ***Digging Deeper***

### **Notes for Individual Meditation and Small Group Discussion**

What was church like for you before you became a Christian?

Review the sermon notes from Sunday's sermon. What point in the sermon made the greatest impact on you?

How often do you think people tend to make church their spiritual placebo?

***Read: Ephesians 4:1-16***

### ***Discussion Questions***

*(Remember that not all questions must be used)*

This is one of the most important passages about the church. There are three parts:

- 1-6: Being the right person
- 7-13: Being the right minister
- 14-16: Being the right church

Paul encourages us to live a life worthy of our calling. He then names the qualities of a worthy life in the following verses. What are those qualities?

What do you think it means to "bear with one another in love"? Why is that so important?

Paul dedicates verses 3-6 to the subject of unity. On a scale of one to ten, how important do you think Paul considers unity in the church?

How does Paul's list of "ones" in verses 4-6 help us to understand the nature and importance of unity?

The word "grace" in verse 7 could also be translated "gifts." What do you think it means that each has been given as Christ apportioned it?

The list of "graces" in verse 11 includes five roles of leadership. Apostles refers to those authorized to speak authoritatively for God. Prophets proclaim the truth of God. Evangelists persuade people to become Christians. Pastors provide care and help to the church. Teachers instruct in the knowledge of God. Which of these have you found to be the most important influence on your life?

Verse 12 emphasizes that those given the graces are to "prepare God's people for works of service." What does this imply about who is to do the work of ministry in the church?

How is the church to be "built up"? The result is to be "unity," "knowledge," and "maturity." Why do you think so many churches have a problem with these three qualities?

What do you think it means to "attain the whole measure of Christ"? How close do you feel you have come to experiencing that?

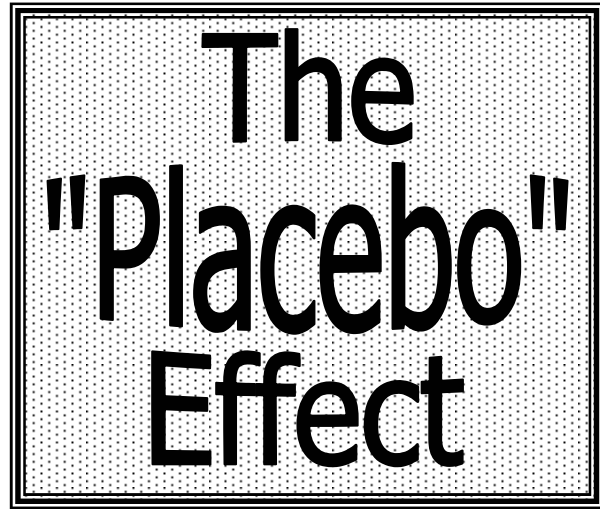
What are the characteristics of "infants" listed in verse 14?

How does Paul say we are to keep from being infants in verse 15? What do you think keeps so many Christians from becoming "grown up"?

How does Paul say the whole body is to work in verse 16? What do you think is the most important thing necessary to make the body function as God intended?

#### **Prayer Time:**

Take time to pray for each others burdens individually, but also pray for our church to experience unity in the faith.



# The "Placebo" Effect

**November 18, 2007**

***Romans 10:9-13, 12:1-2***

***"Church"***

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