

Series: A Healthy Church

“Witness of the Body”

John 15:26, 27

Big Idea – God wants everybody in the Body to witness about Jesus.

Intro: When God wanted to show His love to man He sent Jesus into the world, who lived a sinless life, died on the cross for my/our sins, conquered death by rising physically from the grave, and went back to Heaven. He left His spiritual body, the church, here to be a witness in the world. You and I are predestined according to Rom. 8:29 to be conformed to be like Christ and be His witnesses to the world.

This is the whole point of our existence as a Body, as the church, as a witness to the world. In our first message on Unity of the Body, we learned from John 17:21,23 that this is why Jesus prayed for our oneness, our unity – “that the world might believe in Jesus, that He came from God.”

Nobody, in the Body of Christ is excused from being a witness.

Acts 1:8 “You shall receive power after the Holy Spirit is come upon you and you shall be My witnesses...”

Study today is from John 15:26, 27 read it with me:

John 15:26 “But when the Helper comes, whom I shall send to you from the Father, the Spirit of truth who proceeds from the Father, He will testify of Me.

27 And you also will bear witness, because you have been with Me from the beginning.

The word “witness” in vs. 27 is a legal term from a courtroom setting.

Now in this setting, Who’s on trial? – Jesus Christ. Who’s the judge? – the world. Who’s the defense attorney? – the Holy Spirit. The word Helper or Comforter is the Gk. word for Advocate,

The Prosecutor is Satan, and the witnesses are the church, you and me individually, as well as corporately. Satan is the accuser who uses lies and false accusations against Christ and the church to tear Him down.

If we are not living the life we say we have, then we are not good witnesses for Christ. Fortunately for us, we don’t have to do this in our own strength, but have the help, the power of the Holy Spirit who is given to help us be good witnesses.

If you’re a believer, a Christian, you’re a witness – question is, what kind are you? - are you a good one, or a bad one?

Note in these 2 verses: Six traits of effective witnessing:

1. Christian witness is to the World

Notice word “world” starting in vs. 18-25; 16:1-3

World is hostile, killed Jesus, hates Christians, but what is our response supposed to be to that hostile attitude?

Rejoice and be exceedingly glad apostle Matthew tells us.

Big Idea?

2. Christian witness is about the Son

The world's hatred is focused on Jesus Christ, therefore our witness is to be about Him, and not be watered down and diluted, because a person cannot be born again and saved with a full knowledge of who Jesus Christ is. Notice Galatians 1:7 – 12.

All true testimony in the Bible is always about Christ!

Revelation 1:2 John...bore witness to the word of God, and to the testimony of Jesus Christ,

Revelation 19:10 ... you and your brothers and sisters who have the message of Jesus. Worship God, because the message about Jesus is the spirit that gives all prophecy.

What's the content of your witness? Effective testimony is not that you go to church, or about religion, but about Jesus' life, death, burial and resurrection.

Big Idea?

3. Christian witness is by the Father

The Helper was sent from the Father. Jesus said,

John 8:54 "...it is my Father that honors me."

John 5:37 ...the Father Himself, who sent Me, has testified of Me.

How? Words from the Old Testament, Jesus said,

John 5:39 "You search the Scriptures because you think they give you eternal life. But the Scriptures point to me!"

Remember what Jesus said to disciples on road to Emmaus?

Luke 24:27 Then starting with what Moses and all the prophets had said about him, Jesus began to explain everything that had been written about himself in the Scriptures.

How? Works of Christ in N.T.

John 10:25 ...the works that I do in my Father's name, they bear witness of me.

At Jesus' baptism and Transfiguration God the Father said, *"This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well please; hear Him.*

Big Idea?

4. Christian witness is through the energy of the Spirit

John 15:26 26 "But when the Helper comes, whom I shall send to you from the Father, the Spirit of truth who proceeds from the Father, He will testify of Me.

So, the primary reason the Holy Spirit came and was given, was to testify and help us testify about Jesus Christ.

Big Idea?

5. Christian witness is in the members

So, if the Holy Spirit is going to testify about Jesus Christ today, it has to be through us, the members of the Body of Christ.

Would you like more courage and boldness to speak about Jesus?

Acts 4:31 They were all filled with the Holy Spirit and spoke the Word of God with boldness.

A witness is someone with firsthand experience – you can't testify about something you have not experienced yourself.

1 John 1:1 We write you now about what...we have seen with our own eyes, we have looked at, and we have touched with our hands. We write to you about the Word that gives life.

2 He who gives life was shown to us. We saw him and can give proof about it. And now we announce to you that he has life that continues forever. He was with God the Father and was shown to us.

3 We announce to you what we have seen and heard, because we want you also to have fellowship with us. Our fellowship is with God the Father and with his Son, Jesus Christ.

Our witness or testimony is not about ourselves, but Jesus Christ who we know because He has touched our lives.

Big Idea?

6. Christian witness is in the Body

Ephesians 2:21 ...and that whole building is joined together in Christ. He makes it grow and become a holy temple in the Lord.

22 In Christ you, too, are being built together into a place where God lives through the Spirit.

So God's Holy Spirit indwells not only individual believers, 1 Cor. 6:19, but the whole body of Christ.

Two main ways the Body witnesses in a collective, single testimony:

Unity

John 17:20 "I am praying not only for these disciples but also for all who will ever believe in me through their message.

21 I pray that they will all be one, just as you and I are one—as you are in me, Father, and I am in you. And may they be in us so that the world will believe you sent me.

Love

John 13:34 "I give you a new command: Love each other. You must love each other as I have loved you.

35 All people will know that you are my followers if you love each other."

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