



Sermon Notes

Lesson Truth

We are all meant to be in God's family.

Bible Verse: 1 Corinthians 12:18 (NRSV)

"But as it is, God arranged the members of the body, each one of them, as he chose."

Purpose

This outline is intended to help prepare a sermon that encourages members to serve their Lord Jesus together, since we are all part of the body of Christ, the Church. This sermon calls particular attention to people with and without disabilities serving together in Christ's ministry.

Basic text: I Corinthians 12:18

But as it is, God arranged the members of the body, each one of them, as he chose. (NRSV)

God has placed each part in the body just as he wanted it to be. (NIRV)

But in fact God has placed the parts in the body, every one of them, just as he wanted them to be. (NIV)

God arranged the members in the body, each one of them, as he chose. (ESV)

Goal, Malady, Means Statements

Goal: People will know that since Christ died for all, all believers (no matter their gifts or abilities) are meant to be united as one in the body of Christ, the Church.

Malady: We see some people as less valuable than others and don't really see them as one with us, members of the body of Christ, the Church. (Emphasis on disabilities)

Means: Through the use of Scripture and biblical illustrations, the Holy Spirit will guide people to realize that all believers in Christ are meant to be an integral part of Christ's body, the Church, living lives of witness and service to him.

Opening Prayer: Lord God, you called us by your Holy Spirit to faith in Jesus Christ, who died for us and rose again unto eternal life. You placed us in your Church, the body of Christ, putting each of us exactly where we were meant to be. We thank you, praise you and ask you to bless us as we worship you together. In Jesus' name, Amen.

Supporting Scripture for illustrating the “Meant To Be” theme:

Genesis 50:20 – Thought: Joseph’s brothers sought to do him harm. God, on the other hand, used Joseph’s trials to help the lives of others during a time of famine.

1 Samuel 16:6–7 – Thought: Samuel looked for the biggest and strongest of Jesse’s sons to be the next king of Israel, but God said that David was the one who was meant to be king.

Esther 4:14b – Thought: A plot was hatched to destroy all Jews living in the Persian kingdom of King Xerxes. Esther, a Jewess, was chosen queen and was in a prime position to help her people. In God’s plan, she was meant to be there at that time for that purpose.

John 9:3 – Thought: Jesus’ disciples asked who sinned that this man was born blind, but Jesus said this was meant to be so that the work of God might be displayed in his life.

Acts 9:4 – Thought: Though Saul had been violently persecuting Christians, God called him and made it clear that he (Paul) was meant to be a missionary to the Gentiles.

All believers in Christ, regardless of needs, abilities, disabilities, ethnic background, race or gender are meant to be productive, forgiven servants of Christ, full and active members of the body of Christ, the Church.

Sermon Outline: Meant to Be INTRODUCTION

Were you meant to be a musician with a God-given talent for music or a mechanic with a God-given mechanical ability to fix anything? Our text tells us that God placed all the parts of our human body exactly where he wanted them to be, so they can perform the functions God meant them to do. Later in this chapter, we see that God placed us into the Church, Christ’s body on earth. Each of us has a distinctive place in the body of Christ. God put each of us exactly where we are for his purpose.

Meant to Be

I. People were meant to be with God forever

- A. Originally created in God’s image: holy, sinless, living eternally
- B. But with Adam and Eve all mankind became sinful
- C. Sin broke man’s perfect relationship with God and separated man from God

II. Jesus Christ was meant to be our Savior

- A. God promised he would send a Savior to fix our broken relationship with God
- B. Reconciled with God, man now can look forward to eternal life
- C. Jesus was meant to be the Savior of all people, regardless of abilities or disabilities

III. All believers in Christ are meant to be a part of his body, the Church

- A. Rejoicing together that God has saved us from our sins
- B. Living each day with God’s help, strength, compassion, love, and grace to get us through all the ups and downs of this earthly life, with or without disabilities.
- C. Reaching out together in mission with people with developmental disabilities to reach more of the lost who are also meant to be God’s redeemed people

CONCLUSION – The pastor should emphasize that all believers in Christ are meant to be an integral part of Christ’s body on earth, the Church, and that no one should be overlooked or kept out of our Christian fellowship. All should be welcomed with the open arms of Jesus Christ.

Closing Prayer – Thank you, Heavenly Father, for the gift of faith in Jesus that you have given us through the work of the Holy Spirit in our hearts. Preserve us in that faith always. Help us respect and love all your people, regardless of needs or abilities, so that we may share together in the fellowship of your son Jesus Christ. In his name we pray. Amen.