

**HOW DO YOU SING THE ANTHEM?**  
**1 Corinthians 12:4-7, 12-20**

**I. SINGING SOLO**

- A. *“For just as the body is one and has many members, and all the members of the body, though many, are one body, so it is with Christ” (vs. 12).*
- B. Taking Liberties.
  - 1. Our national anthem has always been sung by individuals who do it in their own style.
  - 2. Reba McIntire gave it a country sound. Jose Feliciano sang it to a Latin beat. Then there was Roseanne Barr.
- C. The Freedom of Faith.
  - 1. Faith is sung solo in this country.
  - 2. “Commandment Number One of any civilized society is this: let people be different!” (David Grayson)
  - 3. *“Now there are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit; and there are varieties of service, but the same Lord...” (1 Cor. 12:4-5)*

**II. SINGING IN HARMONY**

- A. *“To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good ...For the body does not consist of one member but of many” (vs. 7&14).*
- B. The Bigger the Better.
  - 1. I like four-part harmony!
  - 2. Give me altos and bases and sopranos and tenors blending together!
- C. Our Nation at Its Best.
  - 1. We sing the best when we sing together.
  - 2. September 11<sup>th</sup> and Hurricane Katrina caused our nation to sing in perfect harmony.
  - 3. Look at our history: we had the Spanish in the South, and the Irish in the East, and blacks picking cotton, and Chinese working on the railroads. They all came singing their songs.
- D. Our Faith at Its Strongest.
  - 1. Our Savior is glorified the most when we work together for the common good.
  - 2. Our churches are the strongest when we share out gifts.

**III. IT'S HARD TO SING**

- A. *“But God so composed the body ... that there may be no discord in the body, but that the members may have the same care for one another.”*
- B. Staying Silent.
  - 1. “I don't sing it at all because it's too hard to sing.
  - 2. It's hard to sing because our national dream is hard to maintain.
- C. The Price We Pay.
  - 1. Freedom is not cheap.
  - 2. Salvation is free but it was purchased at a price!

**Prayer Concerns:** Burney Biesel, Jere Ford, Mac Kerr, Joe McDowell, Anne Miller, Sibby Petty, Rick Roberts, Mildred Sentell, Jennifer Tarpley, Joe Tidwell, Jr., **Wanda Armstrong**, Ray Billings, Gerald Borden, Sarah Clark, Richard Cole, Cledus Creel, Rev. E.H. Denman, Jr., Jimmy Eubanks, Nancy Gunnels, Rob Hammond, Fern Haslop, **Dorothy Huffstutter**, Jeff Joyner, Van Lynch, Dorothy Montgomery, Macy Morgan, Taylor Murray, Judy Owen, Patrick Ramage, **Bob Sparks**, Cathy Webb ...

**Christian Sympathy** is extended to **Bridgett Lepping and family** in the death of her mother-in-law, **Mary Lou Lepping**, who died on June 23, and to **Erin Walker Rueff and family** in the death of her father-in-law, **Joe Rueff**, who died on June 25.

## PASTORAL PRAYER

O God of all people everywhere, we thank you for your gift of our nation, and for those who have made it possible. We thank you for courage shown beyond measure, for sacrifice made beyond easy explanation. We thank you for those who took hard journeys to unknown lands, and who created from it all a nation.

Even in our gratitude, we confess that we have often misused our blessings. We have blundered too often in our actions, and have not always remembered how much human suffering follows our national decisions.

Help us, Father. Keep us a light to the nations. Keep our love for liberty balanced with a passion for justice. Give our leaders guidance and insight, and season it all with compassion.

Now touch each of us with your presence. Strengthen us where we are weak, heal us where we are wounded, assure us where we are uncertain, and grant peace to all of us in this world of your giving, we pray in the name of Christ, our Lord, who taught us to pray ...

**THE LORD'S PRAYER: Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread and forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors; and lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.**

## 1 CORINTHIANS 12:4-7, 12-20

Now there are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit; and there are varieties of service, but the same Lord; and there are varieties of working, but it is the same God who inspires them all in every one. To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good ...

For just as the body is one and has many members, and all the members of the body, though many, are one body, so it is with Christ. For by one Spirit we were all baptized into one body – Jews or Greeks, slaves or free --- and all were made to drink of one Spirit.

For the body does not consist of one member but of many. If the foot should say, “Because I am not a hand, I do not belong to the body,” that would not make it any less a part of the body. And if the ear should say, “Because I am not an eye, I do not belong to the body,” that would not make it any less a part of the body. If the whole body were an eye, where would be the hearing? If the whole body were an ear, where would be the sense of smell? But as it is, God has arranged the organs in the body, each one of them, as he chose. If all were a single organ, where would the body be? As it is, there are many parts, yet one body.

## SERMON SCHEDULE

### In the Sanctuary:

July 9	<i>I'll Meet You in the Furnace</i>	Daniel 3
July 16	<i>Just Preaching</i>	Mark 6:1-13
July 23	<i>Give Me a Break</i>	Mark 6:30-34, 53-56
July 30	<i>Big Sea, Little Boat</i>	John 6:1-21

### On the Radio (1450 AM):

July 9	<i>The Da Vinci Code</i>	Matthew 15:13-20
July 16	<i>The Other Bible</i>	2 Peter 2:2
July 23	<i>Beginning Again</i>	Revelation 21:5
July 30	<i>On Being Alive</i>	Ephesians 2:1-10