

“Our Finest Hour”

1 Corinthians 12:13-27

“To every man somewhere in his lifetime, there comes a special moment when he is figuratively tapped on the shoulder and offered a chance to do a very special thing, unique to him and fitted to his talents. What a tragedy if that moment finds him unprepared, unqualified for the work which could be his finest hour.”

This powerful, well-known quote was not scripted by a coach to his key player before the biggest game of the season, though some have likely capitalized on its power to motivate. This quote was part of the infamous speech carefully and masterfully crafted by one of the greatest statesman of the last 100 years. On June 18, 1940, just four weeks after becoming the Prime Minister of England, Winston Churchill addressed the House of Commons at one of the darkest moments in recent history. Nazi Germany had just invaded France, Belgium, and Holland with its eyes set on England and eventually the world. Many yet today believe this speech served to unify a nation and her allies in a war that eventually turned the tide of Hitler’s hideous regime.

The genius of the speech not only encompassed nations but also powerfully and magnetically drew in each individual’s personal responsibility toward a single unified purpose in the midst of crisis.

Every one of us has, perhaps *are* and definitely *will*, face crises in our lives. Those crises will range from life threatening illness to economic despair, from broken marriages to controlling addictions and everything between and including yes, even a football game.

Be it from secular history or Christian history we have much to learn about the core values of life. These are the values which shape our character and convictions amidst a numbed culture just waiting for someone to stand up, speak, and demonstrate those convictions in daily life. It could be in your marriage, your family, or perhaps your work place. Maybe it’s at school, the PTA, or in your social group.

Many believe we are a part of a generation facing one of the most critical times in our history, economically, politically and especially spiritually. And like Churchill who saw the threat as more than global, we must agree it comes down to the individual and his/her commitment to the core values. If a crusty old political leader, certainly not known for his spiritual values, can so move a nation, where are we as leaders of Christ’s church? Nowhere can one find a greater strength and potential for mobilizing a world in the midst of crisis than the church.

God has established the life-changing core values capable of transforming everything from dysfunctional lives to a disoriented world, and His instrument is His body, the church.. As a church we have the capacity to speak, live, and lead with confidence in an unconfident culture. “What a tragedy if *this* moment finds *me/us* unprepared, unqualified for the work which could be *my/our* finest hour.”

LIFE RESPONSE:

1. This week **MEMORIZE** and **MEDITATE** on Colossians 1:18, “*He is also head of the body, the church; and He is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, so that He Himself will come to have first place in everything.*”
2. If He is the “head” and we are members of His “body,” what does this say about our point of unity in decisions, relationships, and action?
 - (a) What does this imply about how we relate as husbands and wives, as a family?
 - (b) How should this truth manifest itself in our church? Mini Church? Care Group? Cells?
 - What if it is not manifested?
 - What image does it communicate to our culture? (Those on the outside who observe us.)
3. Think about the imperatives (messages) sent from the head to the body.
 - * What are some of them? (a great Mini Church, family, or group Bible Study.) See Matt. 28:19-20; Luke 6:27-38; Eph. 4:17-32; Col. 3:1-25; Eph. 5:18-32.
 - * What happens when these imperatives are distorted or ignored?
4. As you read 1 Cor. 12:13-27, reflect on these questions:
 - * What does it say about your value to the body of Christ?
 - * What does it say about how we should value those (all) who make up the body of Christ?
 - * What if one chooses not to function as a member of the body of Christ?

5. What is the ultimate purpose of the church as the body of Christ with Christ as our “head”? See Eph. 4:11-16; Col. 1:25-29; Acts 1:8; Matt. 28:19-20.

“The more we understand God’s glorious plan for the church and the more we are involved in this process of spiritual growth, the more excited we’ll become about the church of Jesus Christ.” - Dr. Gene Getz

No institution has had a greater impact on the world and her history than the church, the body of Christ.

. . . So much more than any institution with its limitations

. . . It’s organic, life, personal, divinely motivated

6 Most Common Metaphors

Bride	Eph 5:22-32
Building	1 Pet 2:4-7; Eph 2:19-22; Acts 4:11
Priesthood	1 Pet 2:6-12; Gal 3:17-19
Flock	Acts 20:28; 1 Pet 5:3; John 10
Branch	John 15; John 17
Body	Ephesians; Rom 12; 1 Cor 12

These metaphors are visible:

What happens at FBC leaves FBC

Most prominent theological expression: The Body

The Head:

- **Preeminence** of the Head Col 1:15-19
- **Unity** with the Head Col 2:19
- **Sustenance** from the Head Eph 4:15-16

The Body:

- Divinely empowers every believer 1 Cor 12:12-13
- Decisively breaks every barrier
- Distinctly interdependent with every believer
- Deliberately chooses every believer
- Discreetly values every believer
- Dramatically fuses every believer

What happens at FBC . . .

The ultimate product Eph 4:11-13

“. . . until we all attain to the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to a mature man, to the measure of the stature which belongs to the fullness of Christ.” Eph 4:13

What happens at FBC . . .

. . . Leaves FBC

The assigned purpose

To influence our world

- Matt 28:19-20
- Acts 1:8
- Col 1:27-28