

Sermon: Post 60th Anniversary: The Way Forward

Scripture: Romans 12:3-8

Date: 1st September 2019

Introduction

Praise the Lord God Almighty who has been gracious to this church all these 60 years. We have grown; we had made progress over these years. Can we go into retirement mode?

I am proposing that we cannot afford to be a church on “Retirement Mode.”

Let us look at the “H.E.A.R.T” of TMC PJ.

“H” refers to “Heart” (Rom 12: 9,10, 11)

Romans 12: 9,10 read, “⁹ *Let love be genuine. ¹⁰ Love one another with brotherly affection...* “

There are two arteries that we need to pay attention to:

The first artery is our “**Love Quotient**”.

Scripture: John 13:24-25 – love one another

Song: Let There Be Love Shared Among Us

Is our heart filled with love for one another? How genuine is our love?

How do we move our hearts?

1. Get out of our comfort zone and meet somebody new. The goal is to build fellowship.
2. Try to pray for and with one another.

The second artery is about passion for God, “**Passion Quotient**”

Scripture: Romans 12:11 – zeal

Revelations 3:15-16 - lukewarm

As we measure the temperature of our heart, do we feel the zeal, the fervency in the spirit?

As we move forward, we must pay attention to these two arteries. They must be free flowing, full functioning, and filled with power from the Spirit of God.

“E” refers to “Engaged”. (Romans 12: 4-6)

By being “engaged” is about our involvement in the Body of Christ.

Scripture:

Romans 12:5. We belong to the Body

Romans 12:4. We have different function

Romans 12:6. We have different gifts (c/f I Corinthians 12:8-10; I Peter 4:11)

Hope is we can increase the 20% involvement to 80% involvement! (c/f Pareto Principle 80/20)

Our mission statement, “Everyone United in Ministry for Jesus Christ.”

“A” stands for “Attitude” (v.3)

Scripture:

Romans 12:2 Paul speaks about renewed mind

Romans 12:3 Paul’s exhortation to exercise ‘sober judgment.’ An evidence of the “renewed mind”.

He warned against the bad attitude of pride

Romans 12:16 Another reminder – do not be proud, conceited

Paul call us to have, “sober judgment.”

We need to deflate our ego ourselves!

Don't let others puncture your ego! It may be very unpleasant!

Pride insisted upon its own ways; pride does not bear all things; pride boasts much. Let us as we move forward, repent of our pride and prejudices.

Let us be transformed in the renewing of our minds through the work of the Holy Spirit.

“R” Stands for “Reaching Out.” (vv 7-8)

The first target group is **those who are members of the body of Christ, who are Christians**

Scripture: Romans 12:7-8 – spiritual gifts

The spiritual gifts are given for the edification. We use all that we are gifted with to reach out and bless those with different and diverse needs in the Body of Christ.

Will you have eyes to see these needs? Will you have hearts of compassion to feel these needs?

The **Prayer of St Francis of Assisi**:

The second target group is **those who are not yet members of the Body of Christ.**

There are two categories here.

Category 1: Fulfilling our Vision of Disciple Making Church – Great Commission (GC)

Scripture: Romans 10: 15,13 – Share Good news; people call on the name of the Lord and be saved.

Look at our church vision and mission. We need to find those who are yet not in the Lord's sheep pen; we need to cast our net into the ocean not in the aquarium. We need to reach out to those who are unchurched!

Category 2: Generational Discipleship (GD).

GD reminds us of winning and discipling the families within the church – spouses, parents, children.

Scripture: Acts 16:31, “Believe in the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved—you and your household.”

So we have to reach out to minister and we have to reach out to win disciples for Christ.

We have a great challenge before us. We cannot retire!

Finally “T” is for “Think”.

Think about all that you have heard.

Think about your response.

Think about your role and responsibility!

Think about our **H.E.A.R.** lest you forget.

H is for “Heart”. How is your heart? Your “Love Quotient” and your “Passion Quotient”

E is for “Engage”. Are you ready to step up your engagement in the church as you see your function and use your gifting?

A is for “Attitude”. Guard against the bad attitude of “pride” which destroys fellowship.

R is for “Reaching Out”. Let us reach out to lift up the disheartened in our congregation. Let us reach out to those who are unchurched and those families not yet fully Christian.

At 60 years old, we cannot retire. As we move forward, we need to ask the Holy Spirit to refire our H.E.A.R.T. so that we can be the church after God's own heart. Amen.