

TMC PJ – MSF Sunday

Sermon: Seniors As LIMBS of the Church

Scriptures: Romans 12:3-8 Date: 22nd October 2017

Establish Rapport

Today is MSF - Methodist Seniors Fellowship - Sunday. In the Methodist Book of Discipline this refers to anyone who is age 50 years old and above.

MSF: “Memory Slowly Fading,” “Moving Steadily Forward,” “Must Serve Faithfully” or “Maintaining Strong Friendship.”

Introduction

How do we view the old? Old buildings are preserved as heritage; old cars are treasured as vintage. What about old folks? They are to be treasured as “sage”.

Quotations:

“Nobody grows old merely by living a number of years. We grow old by deserting our ideals. Years may wrinkle the skin, but to give up enthusiasm wrinkles the soul.” ~Samuel Ullman.

“To know how to grow old is the master-work of wisdom, and one of the most difficult chapters in the great art of living.” ~ Henri Amiel

Looking at the text: Romans 12:3-8

1. There is Right Thinking in the Body (v.3)

To have right thinking of oneself is important. Wrong thinking will lead to wrong action. Wrong thinking will form wrong habits and will result in wrong character. Wrong thinking will also result in wrong motivation.

Paul therefore urged the people to think about themselves according to the “measure of faith” that God has given to them.

When we grow old, we must never price-tag ourselves as “useless.”

We have been bought by the precious blood of the Lamb. So we are “precious.”

2) There is Unity in the Body (vv 4-5)

Verses 4 and 5 highlight that there is diversity in the body yet there is oneness.

I love this old time favourite: “*We are one in the bond of love.*”

Unity is a precious commodity. I-Malaysia; I-Body. I-TMCPJ.

To the Seniors in TMCPJ, use your wisdom, knowledge and experiences to unite the church; use your influence to bring people from all generations together to build a legacy for the generation and generations to come.

3. There is Building Up of Each Other in the Body (vv 6-8)

I am reminded of how an orchestra functions. Each one is flowing in perfect harmony. And together they play under the watchful eyes of the conductor.

That is how the body functions with the different gifts that the Lord has given to his body so that there will be beautiful music flowing out from the 1Body.

And we use our gifts under the guidance of the Master Conductor, the Holy Spirit.

Understanding “Seniors are L.I.M.B.S of the church.

1. Leadership

Every organization needs people who will rise up to take leadership, more so in a church context.

There are seniors who still need their fellow seniors like in a Senior Fellowship, seniors lead seniors.

As the Lord anoint you with his Holy Spirit, may you also rise up to provide leadership at the LCEC, at Small Groups and Home Fellowship, at other ministries as the Lord impressed upon you.

2. Intercessors

Seniors have cultivated a praying life, a praying habit. Pray that God will give you a spirit of intercession.

There are so many things that you can pray for: the country, for the community and for the church and not forgetting your children and the grandchildren.

The church needs intercessors. The church needs to be covered and undergirded with much prayer. Intercessors can alter the course of events. History belongs to the intercessors. Seniors you can be those history changers and shapers through prayer.

3. Mentors

What do you want to bequeath the next generation? Something of more eternal worth - legacy of faith.

You have the faith, you have the knowledge, you have the experience, you have the wisdom. Will you be the one to impart and impact the younger generation? It is just like Paul and Timothy or Moses and Joshua or Elijah and Elisha.

4. Backbone

Seniors are the backbone of the church because of the knowledge you have regarding the church. You are like “archive keepers.”

You provide the link between the past and the current and the future.

In a church context, seniors can play the role of counsellors, mediators or peace makers. You provide the continuity. Your wisdom and knowledge provide the stability and security.

5. Servers

Discover your passion and SHAPE

- **Spiritual Gifts** - A set of special abilities that God has give to you to share his love and serve others.
- **Heart** - The special passions God has given you so that you can glorify him on earth.
- **Abilities** - The set of talents that God gave you when you were born, which he also wants you to use to make an impact for him.
- **Personality** - The special way God wired you to navigate life and fulfill your unique Kingdom Purpose.
- **Experiences** - Those parts of your past, both positive and painful, which God intends to use in great ways.

Pray for the measure of faith like that of Caleb who at the age of 85 said to Joshua, “*Now give me the hill country...*” (Josh 14:12).

Seniors, rise up! Be the LIMBS of the church. Don’t let the church LIMP!

God bless.