

**Faith Christian Fellowship**  
**Sunday, February 26, 2012**  
**I Am Not a Victim 3**  
**I am Connected**

**Text:** Romans 8:37 NLT No, despite all these things, overwhelming victory is ours through Christ, who loved us.  
Gen 3:11-13 /

This is the Year of Victory. Our emphasis is specifically “overcome the victim mentality – I am not a victim!” The world is going to wax worse and worse. We are moving away from “Poor me,” blaming circumstances and other people, to a victor mentality. Victims blame God, parents, society, oppressors and predators, self. Victors stand up, step up, and take responsibility for their lives. Our first step in living the victory is remembering that no matter how bad the storm, we have Jesus in our boat. Today we pause to remember that we can’t blame the Church for our trouble. We are It!

♥ **Church is**

- The called out ones (ecclesia)
- The Body of Christ
- The Pillar and Ground of the Truth
- The Family of God
- Some people have a gripe against the church
  - It doesn’t offer the kind of \_\_\_\_\_ I like”
  - There’s no love there
  - They are all hypocrites
  - They’re after my money

♥ You are part of it, whether you like it or not

- 1 Corinthians 12:25-27 MSG (25) The way God designed our bodies is a model for understanding our lives together as a church: every part dependent on every other part, the parts we mention and the parts we don't, (26) the parts we see and the parts we don't. If one part hurts, every other part is involved in the hurt, and in the healing. If one part flourishes, every other part enters into the exuberance. (27) You are Christ's body--that's who you are! You must never forget this. Only as you accept your part of that body does your "part" mean anything.

- The beginning here is to accept that you are part of it already and begin to learn how to be part
- Nehemiah: The wall was rebuilt in the midst of enemy attack. Chapter 4 is a great plan – vv. 14-17. We are family. We work and we watch each other’s back.

♥ We are a “one another” organization.

- Romans 12:5. Get a grip. We are connected.
- In order to enjoy the benefits of our connection, we
  - Rom 15:7 Receive one another as we were received by Jesus
  - Eph 4:2 Put up with one another.
  - Eph 4:32 Be kind and forgive as God forgave you.
  - 1 Peter 5:5 Be submissive to one another
  - 1 Cor 12:25 Care for one another by
    - Heb 10:24-25. Pay attention to one another in order to encourage to good works and stay steady with the Lord.
    - James 5:16 Be transparent and pray for one another
    - Gal 5:13 By love, serve one another (See 1 Peter 4:10 God has given each of you a gift from His great variety of spiritual gifts. Use them well to serve one another. (NLT)
- Now you have a choice to be a victim or a victor. The victim says, “They should receive me and love me and serve me and submit to me and pray for me and care for me. See they are not treating me like Christians should.” The victor says “I am looking for ways to show care and acceptance and forgiveness and service and encouragement and prayer to the other parts of the body. I am connected and that brings responsibility!”
- The victor will experience the benefits of connectedness as the supernatural result of being connected. The victim will wither, drop off and die.

And though we are many, we all eat from one loaf of bread,  
showing that we are one body.  
1 Corinthians 10:17 NLT