

**EVANGEL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH (PCA)**

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**Sunday Worship 10:45 AM**

**Senior Pastor: Donald W. Rackley**

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**Lessons from Geese**

We must never forget that the word Church means "called out ones." The basic idea is "called of God" and the emphasis is clearly on grace. Having called us to Himself, He placed us in His body which is the Church—I Corinthians 12:13; Colossians 1:24.

This calling has to do with our relationship with the world, with the Church and with our mission. We are called out of the world. The Apostle John wrote to the Churches with this instruction: "Do not love the world nor the things in the world"—I John 2:15. Worldliness is the enthronement of something other than God as the supreme object of interest and affection.

Our calling involves our relationship with other members of the Church. We are called together. Jesus taught that He would unite His followers together in a body called "The Church". Truths concerning our relationship to one another can be seen in the images used of the Church.

The Church is often referred to as "Brethren". Which indicates a common birth, a common life, a common nature as well as a common purpose and destiny.

The Church is called "Bread" in I Corinthians 10:16-17. This speaks of her common identity with the transcendent God through union with His Son. The Lord's supper is an expression of the union.

The Church is also called a "Body" in I Corinthians 12:4-7. This speaks of our connection and our service to each other. Our attitudes and behavior toward one another must demonstrate our eternal relationship. We are to "love one another"—Romans 13:8, be of the same mind toward one another—Romans 12:16, bear one another's burdens—Galatians 6:2, forgive one another—Colossians 3:13, help one another—Acts 20:35, pray for one another—James 5:16 and speak well of one another—James 4:11.

*Lessons From Geese* was taken from a speech by Angeles Arrien. These lessons are very applicable for life in the Body of Christ which is the Church.

Fact 1: As each goose flaps its wings it creates an "uplift" for the birds that follow. By flying in a "V" formation, the whole flock adds 71% greater flying range than if each bird flew alone.

Lesson: People who share a common direction and sense of community can get where they are going quicker and easier because they are traveling on the thrust of one another.

Fact 2: When a goose falls out of formation, it suddenly feels the drag and resistance of flying alone. It quickly moves back into formation to take advantage of the lifting power of the bird immediately in front of it.

Lesson: If we have as much sense as a goose we stay in formation with those headed where we want to go. We are willing to accept their help and give our help to others.

Fact 3: When the lead goose tires, it rotates back into the formation and another goose flies to the point position.

Lesson: It pays to take turns doing the hard tasks and sharing leadership. As with geese, people are interdependent on each other's skills, capabilities and unique arrangements of gifts, talents or resources.

Fact 4: The geese flying in formation honk to encourage those up front to keep up their speed.

Lesson: We need to make sure our honking is encouraging. In groups where there is encouragement, the production is much greater. The power of encouragement (to stand by one's heart or core values and encourage the heart and core of others) is the quality of honking we seek.

Fact 5: When a goose gets sick, wounded or shot down, two geese drop out of formation and follow it down to help and protect it. They stay with it until it dies or is able to fly again. Then, they launch out with another formation or catch up with the flock.

Lesson: If we have as much sense as geese, we will stand by each other in difficult times as well as when we are strong.