

# Proclaiming the Gospel

For the preaching of the cross is to them that perish foolishness;  
But unto us which are saved it is the power of God" (1 Cor. 1.18).

Edifying the Body of Christ (Eph. 4.10-16)

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The Wise Still Seek Him

Vol. II.6

## A Problem in The Church ?

Part III: Discerning the Body of Christ  
in His many members

In the first two messages of this series, we looked at I Corinthians 11.17-30, discerning the Body of Christ and discerning the Word. Be reminded of verse 30: "For this cause many [are] weak and sickly among you, and many sleep." We become "weak and sickly" when we fail to discern the Body of Christ.

To discern His body is to know His presence in the communion, in personal time of prayer and study, and in our relationship with every member of His Body. Paul writes that as we partake of "that one bread," (Christ), we then **become** "bread": Christ through us – to others (I Cor 10.17).

Discerning the Lord's Body includes discerning one another, those who are members of Christ's Holy Church, the true Church of Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior. It is knowing what our calling is within the context of the Body of Christ and recognizing the calling of others in the Body. It is knowing the importance of each member, realizing one member cannot function and walk in obedience to the calling of God in Christ Jesus without the whole body functioning and walking together under the Lordship of Jesus Christ – Who is the head of the Body.

When one member fails to function in his position within the Body of Christ and is not moving together with the Body, the Body becomes weakened. None is above the other for all members walking together are necessary to accomplish the will of the Lord. Have you ever tried walking with one leg going to the left and the other going to the right? Have you ever tried climbing a ladder with your arms? When each member recognizes the need and importance of the other members, there will be a caring spirit one for another. Let us look at how the Body is to minister one to another.

Lord in the context of the Body realizing we are members of the Body working together for the glory of the Lord.

"He poured in the oil and the wine,  
The kind that restoreth my soul.

He found me bleeding and dying on the Jericho Road,  
And He poured in the oil and the wine."

Author Unknown

Blessings,

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The Rev. Mrs. Dr. C. S. Cole, Pastor, Ret.

**Co-laborers together for Jesus Christ**

Come apart and rest (Mark 6.31).

The Scripture stands without much teaching as it is clearly stated, and it is concise. Read it slowly phrase by phrase, praying over each part. Let the Holy Spirit speak to your heart as you read the following. Let us begin with Romans 12.3-17.

3 For I say, through the grace given unto me,  
to every man that is among you,  
not to think *[of himself]* more highly than he ought to think;  
but to think soberly,  
according as God hath dealt to every man the measure of faith.

4 For as we have many members in one body,  
and all members have not the same office:

5 So we, *[being]* many, are one body in Christ,  
and every one members one of another.

6 Having then gifts differing  
according to the grace that is given to us,  
whether prophecy,  
*[let us prophesy]* according to the proportion of faith;

7 Or ministry, *[let us wait]* on *[our]* ministering:  
or he that teacheth, on teaching;

8 Or he that exhorteth, on exhortation:  
he that giveth, *[let him do it]* with simplicity;  
he that ruleth, with diligence;  
he that sheweth mercy, with cheerfulness.

9 *[Let]* love be without dissimulation.  
Abhor that which is evil;  
cleave to that which is good.

10 *[Be]* kindly affectioned one to another with brotherly love;  
in honour preferring one another;

11 Not slothful in business;  
fervent in spirit; serving the Lord;

12 Rejoicing in hope;  
patient in tribulation;  
continuing instant in prayer;

13 Distributing to the necessity of saints;  
given to hospitality.

14 Bless them which persecute you: bless, and curse not.

15 Rejoice with them that do rejoice,  
and weep with them that weep.

16 *[Be]* of the same mind one toward another.  
Mind not high things, but condescend to men of low estate.  
Be not wise in your own conceits.

17 Recompense to no man evil for evil.  
Provide things honest in the sight of all men.

Romans is a passage that we all would do well to read and read and pray and pray seeking a work of the Holy Spirit in our lives in these days that lie ahead of us. We each need Jesus Christ and His Body in which we are called to reach out to a lost and dying world – in the Name of Jesus. The following passages will help us better to know the calling of being one in Christ Jesus as a member of His Holy Church. As we go forth asking people if there has been a time in their life when they have asked Jesus Christ, the only Begotten Son of God, to be their Lord and Savior, we then talk to them and pray with them about the reading of the written Word to come to know more deeply the Living Word. So, now we invite you to read with us the following passages and pray, seeking what the Lord wants of you in the context of the Body of Christ. (The verse numbers below correspond with verses in the left column where the passage is.)

3 Romans 11.20; 12.3-18; Galatians 6.3

4-5 I Cor 10.16-17; 12.24-27; Rom 15.5; Ep 4.1-6, 25

8 Eph 4.12; Rom 14.19; I Cor 8.1; Acts 20.32; 2.44-47

9 John 13.34, 35; 15.17; Col 3.12-16; I Peter 1.22; 4.8

9 Romans 16.17-18; I Peter 1.22; 3.4, 8; II Peter 1.7; Phi 2.3, 4I Cor 5.11; I Tim 1.5; Psalm 34.14, 16

10 Rom 15.1; Eph 4.31-32

12 Acts 2.42; 12.5; James 5.13-16; Eph 4.28; 6.18; Romans 12.12; Col 2.2;  
Paul in all writings gave thanks and prayer

13 Eph 4.28; I John 3.17; I Thess 4.11-12; II Thess 3.6-15; James 2.15-16;  
Acts 9.36; 2.43-47; 20.35; I John 3.17; Eph 4.28; Acts 9.36; 2.44-45; Rom  
12.13; I Cor 16.1; Heb 6.10; I Peter 4.8, 9

15 Gal 6.2; I Cor 12.26; Rom 12.15-16;  
If the member is not transformed in conversation<sup>i</sup>, etc., he is not a member  
of the body of Christ Eph 4.22

16 Romans 15.5, 6; I Co 1.10; Phi 2.2, 3; 3.16  
We are responsible to speak forth the Word of God II Chr 19.9-10;  
Ez 3.18

Focus on the calling of the Lord for the Body and not for self alone to accomplish the will of the Lord as the Body. We will not be looking at one another in jealousy, covetousness, lust<sup>ii</sup>, if we are doing the will of the

<sup>i</sup>G391 ἀναστροφή anastrophē **Thayer Definition:** 1) manner of life, conduct, behaviour, deportment

<sup>ii</sup> Romans 7:7: “What shall we say then? *[Is]* the law sin? God forbid. Nay, I had not known sin, but by the law: for I had not known lust, except the law had said, Thou shalt not covet.”