SERVING In The Body

Romans 12:3–8; 1 Corinthians 12:20–27; Ephesians 4:11–16

WALKING IN HIS STEPS SERMON SERIES: GROWING IN CHRIST

Where We Are Going

- 1. What Becoming A Christian Is All about
- 2. What We Have In Christ
- 3. Increasing In The Knowledge of God
- 4. Standing Against Evil Forces
- 5. Giving All Diligence To Grow
- 5. Bearing Fruit That Honors God
- 7. Growing By Serving In The Body
- 8. Living For Heaven Keeping Our Focus

He who abides in Me, and I in him, bears much fruit

OF THE SPIRIT – Gal. 5:22,23

REPRODUCTIONconverts – Romans 1:13; 1 Cor. 3:10-14

OBEDIENCE-Abiding in Jesus' words- John 15:7-11

WORD in the HEART – Luke 8:11

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WISDOM /
UNITY- James
3:13-18; Eph.
4:1-4; Phili 2:1-5

Of LIPS – worship & edification – Hebrews 13:15; Eph 5:19; Col. 3:16

> RIGHTEOUSNESS-Phili 1:11; 2 Cor. 9:10; Heb 12:11

Romans 12:3-8 (NKJV)

³ For I say, through the grace given to me, to everyone who is among you, not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think, but to think soberly, as God has dealt to each one a measure of faith. ⁴ For as we have many members in one body, but all the members do not have the same function, ⁵ so we, being many, are one body in Christ, and individually members of one

Romans 12:3-8 (NKJV)

⁶ Having then gifts differing according to the grace that is given to us, let us use them: if prophecy, let us prophesy in proportion to our faith; ⁷ or ministry, let us use it in our ministering; he who teaches, in teaching; 8 he who exhorts, in exhortation; he who gives, with liberality; he who leads, with diligence; he who shows mercy, with cheerfulness.

1 Corinthians 12:20-27 (NKJV)

²⁰ But now indeed there are many members, yet one body. 21 And the eye cannot say to the hand, "I have no need of you"; nor again the head to the feet, "I have no need of you." ²² No, much rather, those members of the body which seem to be weaker are necessary. ²³ And those *members* of the body which we think to be less honorable, on these we bestow greater honor; and our unpresentable parts have greater modesty,

1 Corinthians 12:20-27 (NKJV)

²⁴ but our presentable *parts* have no need. But God composed the body, having given greater honor to that part which lacks it, 25 that there should be no schism in the body, but that the members should have the same care for one another. ²⁶ And if one member suffers, all the members suffer with it; or if one member is honored, all the members rejoice with it. 27 Now you are the body of Christ, and members individually.

Ephesians 4:11-16 (NKJV)

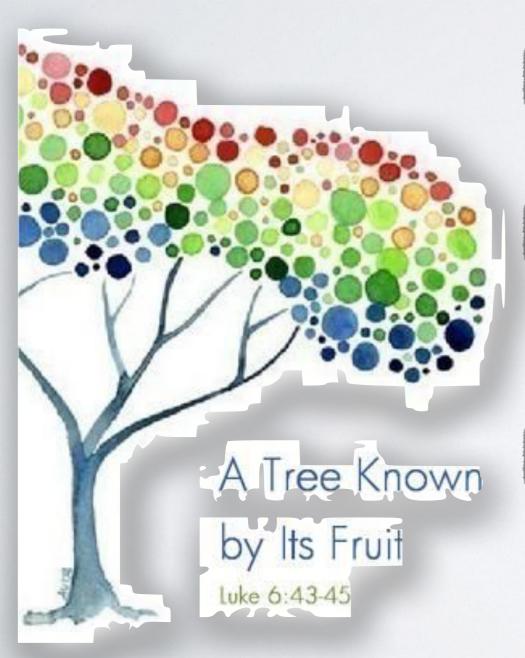
¹¹ And He Himself gave some to be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, and some pastors and teachers, 12 for the equipping of the saints for the work of ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ, ¹³ till we all come to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to a perfect man, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ;

Ephesians 4:11-16 (NKJV)

14 that we should no longer be children, tossed to and fro and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the trickery of men, in the cunning craftiness of deceitful plotting, 15 but, speaking the truth in love, may grow up in all things into Him who is the head—Christ—16 from whom the whole body, joined and knit together by what every joint supplies, according to the effective working by which every part does its share, causes growth of the body for the edifying of itself in love.

To Define

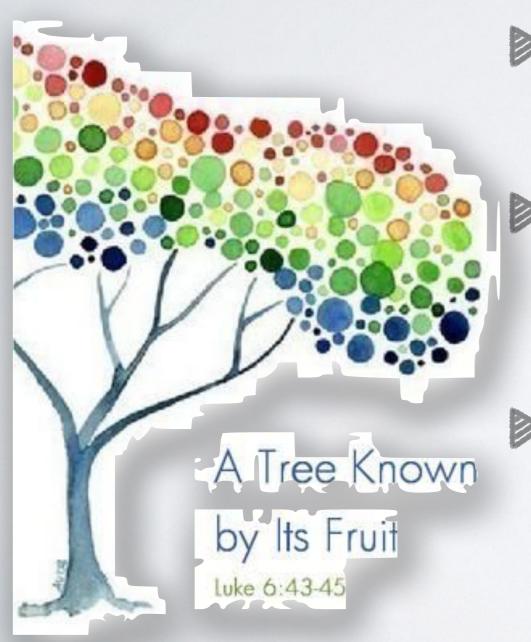
"... according to the effective working by which every part does its share, causes growth of the body..."



- We Live In An "Individualistic" Society
- Many Professing Faith In Christ Practice an "Individualistic" Religion
- Christianity Is Built Upon And Demonstrated By Relationships -

To Define

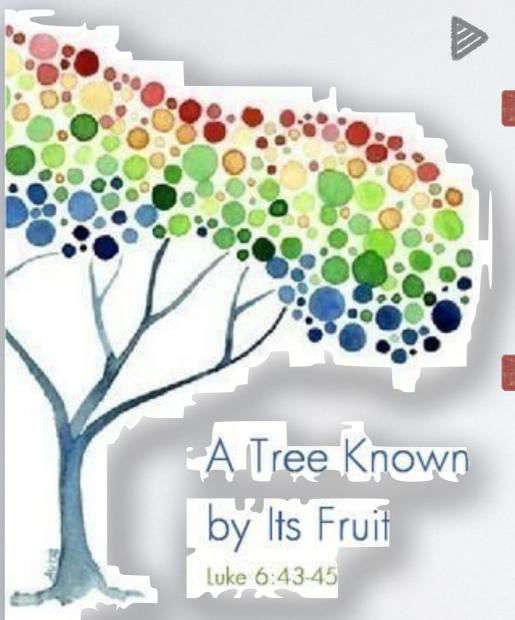
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- The gospel was preached & local churches established (cf. Acts 13-20; Col. 1:5,23).
- Christians joined together for the purpose of corporate worship, support & serving Jesus. (Acts 2:42-47; 11:19ff; 1 Cor. 11:17-34)
 - This was **NOT** some **optional** plan; it was a divinely orchestrated planting of local churches for the Lord's work to be done. (cf. Acts 14:23; Eph 4:11-16)

To Define

"... according to the effective working by which every part does its share, causes growth of the body..."

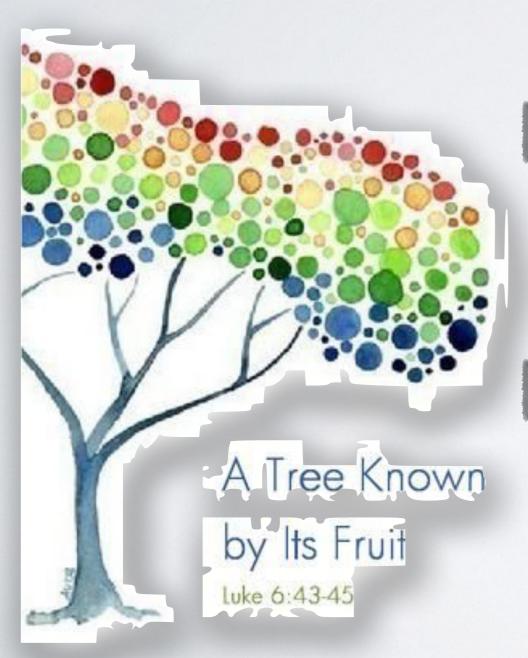


The BODY (church) has needs:

- A community of people some young, some old, some weak, some strong, some struggling, some prospering dependent on, & supportive of ONE ANOTHER ...
 - We are all **different**, with different **backgrounds** / different **needs** / different **abilities** / with the **SAME LORD** Romans 12:3-8; 1 Cor. 12:12-28; Gal. 3:26-29; 1 Cor. 1:10

To Define

"... according to the effective working by which every part does its share, causes growth of the body..."



- Following Christ will result in "serving" others Mat 20:24-28
- We grow by DOING what we learn James 1:22-25

James 1:22-25 (NKJV)

²² But be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves. 23 For if anyone is a hearer of the word and not a doer, he is like a man observing his natural face in a mirror; ²⁴ for he observes himself, goes away, and immediately forgets what kind of man he was. 25 But he who looks into the perfect law of liberty and continues in it, and is not a forgetful hearer but a doer of the work, this one will be blessed in what he does.

Necessary Prerequisites I MUST BE HUMBLE & SELFLESS AMW

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Ephesians 4:1-3 (NKJV)

¹ I, therefore, the prisoner of the Lord, beseech you to walk worthy of the calling with which you were called, ² with all lowliness and gentleness, with longsuffering, bearing with one another in love, ³ endeavoring to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.

Necessary Prerequisites I MUST BE HUMBLE & SELFLESS

Philippians 2:1-5 (NKJV)

¹ Therefore if there is any consolation in Christ, if any comfort of love, if any fellowship of the Spirit, if any affection and mercy, ² fulfill my joy by being like-minded, having the same love, being of one accord, of one mind. 3 Let nothing be done through selfish ambition or conceit, but in lowliness of mind let each esteem others better than himself. 4 Let each of you look out not only for his own interests, but also for the interests of others. 5 Let this mind be in you which was also in Christ Jesus,

Necessary Prerequisites

LOVE

JOY

PEACE

LONGSUFFERING

Galatians 5:16 (NKJV)

¹⁶ I say then:

Walk in the

Spirit, and you

shall not fulfill

the lust of the

flesh.

KINDNESS

GOODNESS

FAITHFULNESS

GENTLENESS

SELF-CONTROL

on SPIRITUAL things - we will be engaged in SPIRITUAL WORK! — Ephesians 2:10; Titus 2:14

How will these qualities be manifested in my relationships within the Lord's church? — cf. Col. 3:12-17; 1 Cor. 13:1-8; James 2:14-19; Heb. 10:24,25.

To APPLY

"... according to the effective working by which every part does its share, causes growth of the body..."

The PURPOSE of ASSEMBLING TOGETHER



- To WORSHIP (John 4:24; Ps. 122:1; 84:1; 1 Cor 11:33)
- To **LEARN** (Acts 17:11; 1 Tim 4:16; Eph 4:12-14)
- To **SERVE** (Heb. 12:28,29; Eph 4:15,16)
- To **ENCOURAGE** others (Heb 10:24,25)
- To **EDIFY** each other (Heb 10:24,25; 1 Cor. 14)

Local Churches Have Different Kinds of Members



"RELUCTANT MEMBER"

Mind elsewhere / Attends When Convenient



"OBSERVING MEMBER"

Focus on performance / What do I Get?



"INVOLVED MEMBER"

Listens, Prays, Sings, Partakes / Gives & Receives



"DEVOTED MEMBER"

Can be depended on to help, support, serve / Committed

To APPLY

"... according to the effective working by which every part does its share, causes growth of the body..."

Being Fully COMMITTED To The LORD

Always finding something wrong ...

RESPONDS
because
they feel like
they HAVE
TO

RESPONDS
because
they want to
get along

Willing to work with others / good helpers

Seeks
opportunities
to serve /
dependable



Critic



Compelled



Compliant



Cooperative



Committed

WHAT KIND OF MEMBER AM I?

TO APPLY

"... according to the effective working by which every part does its share, causes growth of the body..."

Members In One Body - Rom 12:6-16



- ➢ Grow by participation − 6-8
- Grow by genuine love & concern for one another / by doing good 9,10
- Grow by preferring to associate with one another 10-12
- Grow by helping & supporting one another 13-15
- Grow by listening In humility,- 16

To APPLY

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Members In One Body - 1 Cor 12:12-27



- Grow by being a participant NOT a spectator - 14-20
- Frow by recognizing our **NEED** for one another–15-17, 21-24
- Grow by dependence NOT independence 14,17, 21-27
- Growing through unity NOT schism 12,13,18,20, 25,26
- Growing through mutual support
 Care 26,27

To APPLY

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Members In One Body - Eph 4:1-16



- Growing Through pursuing godly Attitudes Promoting Unity – 1-3
- Demands That We Stand United Upon Truth – 4-6,15
- Demands We Grow In Truth By The Lord's Provisions – 7-15
- Demands That We Use Our God Given Abilities That The Body Grow – 7-16

To APPLY

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Members In One Body - Eph 4:1-16



- A local "body of Christ" should be "fitly framed and knit together through that which every member supplies."
 - Success & growth DEPENDS on the cooperative efforts of individual Christians "according to the working in due measure of each several part" for the increase of the body "unto the building up of itself in love" (Eph. 4:16-17).

To APPLY

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For Growth, Unity & Effectiveness



- When we GIVE we get - when we SERVE we GROW! — Acts 20:35
- When we GROW the whole body GROWS Eph. 4:16

To APPLY

"... according to the effective working by which every part does its share, causes growth of the body..."

WORKING TO GETHER For The Cause



Church pictured as:

- A body (Eph 4:16; 1 Cor 12:14-27; Ro 12:3-8)
- A kingdom (Col. 3:13)
- A vineyard (Mat 20:1-16; Jn 15:1-10)
- An army (Eph. 6:10-18)
- A temple, a holy priesthood (1 Pet 2:4,5

To APPLY

"... according to the effective working by which every part does its share, causes growth of the body..."

WORKING TOGETHER For The Cause



- If every member of this congregation was JUST as committed AS I AM . . . ??
 - Attendance?
 - Bible classes?
 - Preparation for assemblies?
 - Providing assistance for material needs?
 - Supporting teaching efforts?

To APPLY

"... according to the effective working by which every part does its share, causes growth of the body..."

- We need to be workers Titus 2:14; 2 Cor. 10:12
 - Bible class teachers?
 - Leading in worship?
 - Keeping the grounds?
 - Personal evangelism?
 - Various types of help?



To APPLY

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The growth of the BODY depends upon the growth of its members –

- Teachers -
- Servants -
- Preachers -
- Deacons -
- Elders -



To APPLY

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- **Evangelism** (Acts 11:19-26; 12:25-13:3)
- **Edification** (Eph. 4:16; 1 Thes. 1:3; Heb. 10:24)
- Benevolence (Acts 11:27-30)
- These things imply the necessity of organization, & teamwork!!! (1 Cor. 12:27; Eph 4:11-16)



HOW CAN I SERVE? WHAT CAN I DO?

Seek to bear spiritual fruit – Gal 5:22,23

Use my abilities – Seek to find and develop a skill that I may be useful in service to the Lord – Mat 25:14-30; Eph 4:11-16; Phili. 2:1-5; 2 Tim 2:15, 20,21

WHAT DOES YOUR WORK
REVEAL? — Matthew 25:34-46

Have you been **baptized** into Jesus Christ for the remission of your sins?

Do you desire to submit to the Lord's teachings and be **faithful** to Him?

Are you willing to work and serve under the oversight of the elders here?



Romans 12:3–8; 1 Corinthians 12:20–27; Ephesians 4:11–16

Charts by Don McClain

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