



GROWING BY SERVING
TOGETHER IN THE BODY

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

THE LOCAL CHURCH IS IMPORTANT



- ▶ **We Live In An “Individualistic” Society** (*my rights / my freedom / my space / my independence*)
- ▶ Many professing faith in Christ practice an “individualistic” religion, and possess an isolationist mindset.
- ▶ The scriptures teach and emphasize the need for togetherness, unity, and collective service.

THE LOCAL CHURCH IS IMPORTANT



- Local churches were established (cf. Acts 2:42ff; 13-20; Col. 1:5,23).
- Christians banded together for worship and fellowship in serving their Master (Acts 2:42-47; 11:19ff; 1 Cor. 11:17-34; etc.).
- This was not some optional plan or unmeaningful happenstance; it was a divinely orchestrated pattern to accomplish God's work (cf. Acts 14:23; Eph 4:11-16).

THE LOCAL CHURCH IS IMPORTANT



- The early chapters of Acts repeatedly reference the “togetherness” of the early saints (2:42,44,46; 4:23-24,31-32; 9:26–31; etc.; cf. Heb. 10:24,25).
- God never intended for a Christian, or separate small groups of Christians in the same location, to function as isolated “islands” in a sea of worldly-oriented people. (Heb 10:24,25)

THE LOCAL CHURCH IS IMPORTANT



- **THE LOCAL CHURCH IS IMPORTANT TO HONOR & ACCOMPLISH GOD'S WILL!**
- ▶ WORSHIPPING God collectively
- ▶ ENCOURAGING one another
- ▶ BUILDING UP one another
- ▶ EQUIPPING one another
- ▶ WORKING with one another
- ▶ Being ACCOUNTABLE to one another

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 another.

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 unrepresentable 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 APPLY

4 For as we have many members in one body, but all the members do not have the same function,

Members In One Body - Rom 12:3-16



- ▶ We possess different gifts, and have different functions (4,6-8)
- ▶ We are to use our gifts sacrificially in service to the growth of the body (3,6-8)

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TO APPLY

²⁵ that there should be no schism in the body, but that the members should have the same care for one another.

Members In One Body - 1 Cor 12:20-27



- ▶ **MANY** members united in **ONE** body (20)
- ▶ Recognizing our **NEED** for one another, regardless of abilities or function (21-24)
- ▶ We grow by our **DEPENDENCE** on one another – NOT independence (21-27)
- ▶ We grow through **UNITY** – NOT schism (20, 25,26)
- ▶ Growing through **MUTUAL SUPPORT & Care** (26,27)

GROWING BY **SERVING TOGETHER** IN THE BODY

TO APPLY ¹⁶ *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.*

Members In One Body - Eph 4:1-16



- ▶ Growing through pursuing godly attitudes promoting **PEACE** (1-3)
- ▶ Demands we stand **UNITED** upon **TRUTH** (4-6,15)
- ▶ Demands we **GROW** in truth through the Lord's provisions (7-15)
- ▶ Every member to **USE** our God given abilities that the body grow (16)

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- ▶ When we GIVE - we get - when we SERVE we GROW! (Acts 20:35; Heb. 5:14)
- ▶ When we GROW individually, and reinvest our abilities into the service of God's people, the whole body GROWS (Eph. 4:16)

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TO APPLY

¹⁶ *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.*



▶ The BODY (church) has needs:

- 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
- A community of people — some **young**, some **old**, some **weak**, some **strong**, some **struggling**, some **prospering** dependent on, & supportive of ONE ANOTHER ...

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TO APPLY

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▶ THE APOSTLES:

- Fishermen; a tax collector; and a zealot - united together for a cause.
- Different personalities, abilities, and backgrounds - but united as followers of Jesus!

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TO APPLY

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TEAMWORK



GROWING BY **SERVING TOGETHER** IN THE BODY

TO APPLY *² fulfill my joy by being like-minded, having the same love, being of one accord, of one mind. (Phil. 2:2)*



Following same director,
Playing same song / key / time,
Different instruments / parts.

Philippians 2:1-5 (NKJV)

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,

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?
 - Encouraging? / Helping needy?
 - Supporting evangelistic efforts?

GROWING BY SERVING

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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

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

GROWING BY SERVING

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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** for the success of our efforts here?

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



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