

One Body, Many Members, Same Care

1 Corinthians 12:12-27

Introduction:

This story was related by Donald Grey Barnhouse. Several years ago, two students graduated from the Chicago-Kent College of Law. The highest ranking student in the class was a blind man named Overton and, when he received his honor, he insisted that half the credit should go to his friend, Kasprzyzak. They had met one another in school when the armless Mr. Kasprzyzak had guided the blind Mr. Overton down a flight of stairs. This acquaintance ripened into friendship and a beautiful example of interdependence. The blind man carried the books which the armless man read aloud in their common study, and thus the individual deficiency of each was compensated for by the other. After their graduation, they planned to practice law together. No believer is complete by himself, we are to minister to one another, as a family. (Source unknown).

Two primary concepts are being stressed here.

- **There is nothing or no one who is too poor or insignificant to be an important part of the body of Jesus Christ. Remember that!**
- **Nothing is so big or so important that it is able to become independent.**

HOW TO CARE FOR EACH OTHER

The following Scriptures explain clearly what God expects from us in this regard. Read them carefully and consider how to apply them in your life: (if you would like to have a list of the scripture references, please email me at jbaines@greatbridgefwb.com).

We stress that you are involved in four areas of this church's life.

- **Be active in _____.**

It is that sacred time of coming together with other believers to sing hymns of praise, to pray, to present your tithes and offerings to the Lord, to hear the announcements of what's going on in the life of the body, to receive the teaching and exhortation from the Word of God as given in the message, to look around and see

your brothers and sisters in Jesus Christ in their varied shapes and sizes, ages and backgrounds.

- **Become involved in Christian _____.**

You need to learn, growing intellectually, becoming increasingly aware of the things of God.

- **Become involved in a _____ group, because you need _____.**

You need a safe place where you are known and you know. Are you bearing the burdens of another in an interdependence, or are you charging off on your own, living a “Lone Ranger” existence?

- **Live a life _____ others.**

Have you plugged your life into the lives of others, giving of yourself to those who would not fit naturally into your normal frame of reference? Do you live in daily awareness that there are people who are hungry, people who are homeless, people who are in prison, people who are without Christ?

John Gardner once said **"When people are serving, life is no longer meaningless."** Does your life ever feel meaningless? Do you ever catch yourself thinking “what’s the point?”

A wise friend shared over lunch once **“You can give without loving, but you can’t love without giving.”** How often we serve expecting nothing in return is a clear reflection of how much we love.

You know you have truly served when you walk away afterwards feeling like you were the one who received it.

“The body has to be utilized for service to others. More bliss can be gotten from serving others than from merely serving oneself.” - Sri Sathya Sai Baba