

Don't Lose Your Head!

Sunday Morning, April 24, 2016

The national Organ Donor registry states on their website "Organ, eye, and tissue donation and transplantation provide a second chance at life for thousands of people each year. You have the opportunity to be one of the individuals who make these miracles happen. By deciding to be a donor, you give the gift of hope ... hope for the thousands of individuals awaiting organ transplants and hope for the millions of individuals whose lives could be enhanced through tissue transplants."

They have 12,000 people listed on their registry right now that are awaiting transplants. That means 12,000 people are unable to live healthy full lives, because they are missing what is vitally needed to give them health. Not only are those 12,000 people in need, but their families can not function as they normally would if they were healthily functioning in their family. Maybe if it is the Mom who is sick, then the kids can't be cared for as they normally would by their Mom. They need help from other family members and friends to help cover the responsibilities of that Mom. Maybe it is the Dad in a family who has taken ill and is awaiting a transplant. Now he can not work to provide funds and others help to make up the financial difference for the family. Each member in these families are important and each family functions better when everyone is healthy and able to do their part.

When we entered the New Covenant with God by Christ's sacrifice for us, we entered into a Covenant relationship with God's people as we discussed last week. We are called upon to be committed to each other and God. That's what a Covenant means. We each were placed figuratively into a body that functions with Christ as the head. (Doll illustration) Each of us is a part of the body that serves a purpose. You take away a leg and the body doesn't walk well. When we don't function as the body part God designed us to be, the rest of the body is unhealthy, sick or doesn't function right. Everyone in this room is a body part designed to actually fulfill a purpose or function in this local church body.

As with any human body, the head or the brain is what causes the other parts to operate and do their job. Therefore the body parts are dependent on the head/brain. So to, are Christians. Christ is our head and we are to be dependent on Him as individual parts and as a whole functioning body.

(Colossians 1:18)

And He is the head of the body, the church, who is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, that in all things He may have the preeminence.

This verse makes it clear that Christ is the Head of His Church

In Greek "Preeminence" is to be first in rank or influence

Every Believer in Christ is an important part of His body from the obvious parts to the obscure.

(I Corinthians 12: 12 – 17)

12 For as the body is one and has many members, but all the members of that one body, being many, are one body, so also is Christ.

13 For by one Spirit we were all baptized into one body—whether Jews or Greeks, whether slaves or free—and have all been made to drink into one Spirit.

14 For in fact the body is not one member but many.

15 If the foot should say, “Because I am not a hand, I am not of the body,” is it therefore not of the body?

16 And if the ear should say, “Because I am not an eye, I am not of the body,” is it therefore not of the body?

17 If the whole body were an eye, where would be the hearing? If the whole were hearing, where would be the smelling?

Each member of the Body of Christ is vital to a healthy and productive body.

The Church can only function properly as each of its member gives themselves in the capacity that God intends for them to.

God gives assignments to the Church as they are able to receive them and this depends on the health condition of the Church.

When the Church is spiritually healthy because each member is functioning together as they should, then God can direct them in ways they never thought possible!

(I Corinthians 12: 18 – 19) *Emphasize*

18 But now God has set the members, each one of them, in the body just as He pleased.

19 And if they were all one member, where would the body be?

To function within the body as Christ has placed us, we must follow Him and not our own selves.

(Matthew 16: 24 – 25)

24 Then Jesus said to His disciples, “If anyone desires to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow Me.

25 For whoever desires to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for My sake will find it.

The First-Century Church saw God work through them mightily as they united together and followed Christ the Head of the Church.

(Acts 2: 46 – 47)

46 So continuing daily with one accord in the temple, and breaking bread from house to house, they ate their food with gladness and simplicity of heart,
47 praising God and having favor with all the people. And the Lord added to the church daily those who were being saved.

(Acts 6:7)

Then the word of God spread, and the number of the disciples multiplied greatly in Jerusalem, and a great many of the priests were obedient to the faith.

(Acts 9:31)

Then the churches throughout all Judea, Galilee, and Samaria had peace and were edified. And walking in the fear of the Lord and in the comfort of the Holy Spirit, they were multiplied.

So What Shall We Do?

If you don't know what part of the body Christ has chosen you to be, or how God wants to use you...

- † Pray & Earnestly Ask
- † Pray for others in this body to know their part that God has for them.
- † Seek to maintain a heart of purity in Christ
The less active we are in sin, the more active the Holy Spirit is in revealing Himself and His Will to us!
- † Take seriously how important you are as a unique part in this body of Christ.
Consider, as our human body that any part not functioning properly effects the whole body.
- † Complete the Spiritual Gifts Test
- † Compare Spiritual Gifts Test Results With Ministry Areas You Could Serve In
- † Start Using Your Spiritual Gifts and Minister or Reach Out
- † Rejoice that God has placed each one of us as unique members of His body for His Glory and His Purpose!