

Feb 6th 2005: Commissioning/commitment service: Rom 12.

This morning...read...a long list of ministries.....

A whole heap of tasks....undertaken by you.....

And it made me realize anew.....that we don't go to church...are church

A vibrant living Body.....seeking to worship by being the body of Jesus here on earth

As a body we help each other to Praise→To learn about Him & His will

→to grow spiritually,,,,,→to live life....raise families....deal with crises...in God's way

As a Body...seek to honour Him.....show others how good He is.....do good works in His name.....extend His power and influence into the darkness of ignorance

And make an impact that challenges and changes the places where we as a Body live

Now if this is true...if this is Biblical

Then it means that altho we may only physically come together.....

We are never spiritually apart....

.We are ONE Body.. linked to one another....Have a connection

In a practical sense...that means we should be in prayer for one another..

(spirit brings someone to mind)

Have an interest.....Seek to be there.....Unite in body ministry/service

This Body picture....the Bible often uses to describe Christians

.....is very descriptive.....

HEAPS we can learn by comparing the way a real live body works.....with...

..the way God wants us as a community of believers to work together.

I have come up with three comparisons.....I would challenge you to come up..

FIRST: Each part of the body supportsthe other parts

*(Imagine you are walking barefoot...tread on a bee and it stings.....
foot wants to get away ASAP.....So the nerves assist by telling the brain....and...)*

There is an obvious harmony at work within our physical bodies
That doesn't mean that ...never any complaining....groaning....dissension
It's a body not a machine.....and at times.....every muscle...joint....organ
Seems to have a voice.....

*I become aware of this everytime I go out for a run
My head makes an executive decision.....IF I want to play basketball.....
So out I go*

*After just a few steps the knees start to complain
Then the lungs kick in.....start to go down hill and....
Suddenly a little muscle.....becomes quite vocal*

But in the end....the Body follows the lead of the head.....finishes....& after 15mins

It is the same with the Body of Christ...that gathers here

At times there are the moans...and the groans
But the harmony comes out on top.....as we follow the direction of the Head....Christ

We see some great examples of this happening.....book of Acts

Turn to Acts 2:32-35.....Someone is in need.....wants help....and the Spirit directs..

Look at Acts 6.....There is groaning in the Body.....complaining

The whole Body goes to the Head...the Lord....in prayer
A solution is found.....The Body's harmony overcomes.....and the work grows

SECOND: Each part of the Body respects and appreciates the contribution of all

Paul says this so well in 1 Cor 12:21.....and in v17-18.....

The eye recognizes the body's need of the hand.....and the hand....of the ear

Each part of the physical body realizes.....that other parts will be different...
In size....power....position.....Because all have something different to contribute

*(rather painful finger....The rest of my body was letting me know.....
Needed to do something....For it was an import part....And it was hurting)*

The parts of the human body however....do have expectations of each other
The eye recognizes that the ear should not be expected to see.....EYES job
But the ear is gifted in hearing
& so... expected to hear.....and if it doesn't....whole body is less effective

It doesn't ask more from.....than that part can give
But it doesn't accept less....either

We are a community of.....who do respect each others differences.....
We know we are not the same.....And we try not to push a square peg.....

Yet also we have the Biblical right.....to expect evry part.....to be active in their own
Paul says in 1Cor 12:27.....

If you are a believer.....then...

You have been made...prepared by Christ....to fill some role....in this community
& **Christ as the Head**...and the rest of His Body....expects you to do so
Now that may be anything from praying.....encouraging.....teaching....attending

*(Have you heard of the old Candid camera rope trick.....On a street corner in the city
stops....vital....hang on to this rope.....Then he runs around the corner with the
rest....finds someone else.....Neither knowing why they are there...why
holding.....just waiting for someone to tug...)*

Don't let that describe your place in the Community of Faith

For it will mean that you are missing out.....And the Body is missing out on you.

THIRD: The human Body works as a unit to overcome loss or weakness

For example

Someone was sharing.....frozen shoulder:::::The rest of the Body expects less.....

But as well as that.....I have noticed.....that the Body works together to overcome loss

Someone unfortunately loses a leg

At first the shoulders develop the power to operate crutches.....The remaining leg stronger.....The whole body adjusts its balance

Then an artificial leg is attached.....and muscles develop to allow for that

And the Body adjusts to the loss.....by other parts doing a little more

We see this a lot.....I feel in the localised Body of believers

A church Body is left Pastorless.....Yet other parts.....share the work.....

And they grow stronger through that time.....Until the Lord once more sends.....

We see a current example of that here at present....Jesus Kids co-ordinator

The Lord has not provided

But the Body.....as a whole.....has rallied to provide what is necessary

And theres a sense of not just leaving it to one.....but working in harmony

To keep the Body working effectively in that area.

So as the Body of Christ

We : Support the efforts of one another.....

That's being Community...Caring.....Supportive

WE: Respect and appreciate the contribution of all

That's being Alert...encouraging....building other up

We: Expect a commitment from ourselves and others that is God directed....

Being faithful to the importance of the task...that God has given us a Body...to do