

## We Are the Body of Christ

Now Paul, in his letter to the Corinthians, makes it very clear that WE are the Body of Christ and each one of us is an important part of that body.

Using the analogy of the body, Paul goes to great length to point out that not a single body part can function on its own.... Each part works in conjunction with all the other parts.

In order for your body to work well, all factors have to be in sync with the rest of the body.

As I grow older, I experience this truth more and more each day. E.g. We replaced the old doorbell a few months ago. The new doorbell worked fine and for a little while we did not notice a problem. (we don't have too many visitors that use the doorbell, so it took a while to realize that although the doorbell worked, it was so quiet, that I could hardly hear it.... and at many times I could not hear it at all, unless I was standing in the kitchen.)

This went on for some time, and I was getting more and more embarrassed. Then one day, Teresa phoned to say that a delivery man would be at our home that afternoon with a package and I would have to sign for it.

Now I was in a dilemma! How was I going to be able to tell when he got there?

Suddenly a 'bright idea' popped into my head... there must be a volume button on the doorbell! .... Dah..... And of course, when I looked, there it was!

Now I am the first one to admit that I am not the brightest bulb in the room as they say, but that was really a very obvious solution, wasn't it?.... but part of my body was not working in conjunction with the rest of me.

Fortunately, I had fixed the problem about two minutes before the delivery man came, and of course I had no trouble hearing him when he got to the door.

Now Paul was using the analogy of the body so the people could understand his message. Of course, he was really talking about the

'Church' ... no not the 'building' this time, but the 'people' and how we function as a 'church'.

If we are indeed the 'body of Christ', then we need to look closely at our how we speak and act. Just as Paul pointed out ... in the same way as all the parts of the body must work together in order to make the body work, so too do we, as a church, have to work together to make the church work.

Do we, as a 'church' act as the Body of Christ?

Is that what people see within the framework of this building? I hope so... we have wonderful church services, prayer felt singing of praises to God, prayers for not only our own members, but others outside of our church family, and even for the world.

And we don't just 'do' things for ourselves, but a much wider community and throughout the world. e.g. Benevolent Fund, Food Bank, Helping Hands, INDSPiRE, World Missions through WMS and PWS&M, Youth work, cookie trays and much more.... Our church hall is available for groups to use as needed.... E.g. AA, packing of Christmas Food Boxes, Horticulture group, singing groups etc.

How about when we are outside of this church building?

Do people see us as happy, joyful, inviting, helpful, encouraging, group etc.?

Or ... dark, gloomy, complaining, being catty, vindictive etc.?

Now, we must face reality.

We are humans, and hence, there are times when we get upset with ourselves, our circumstances or even others. Especially in times of change.

Changes are constantly happening..... In our homes, in our communities, in our world....

Some good.... Some bad.

Look at the changes we have just come through in this church. WE had been without a Clerk of Session for far too long following John's death. Nancy stepped in to fill the gap... a great learning curve, right Nancy? Thank you for doing that. You are doing a great job. Then our minister

retired... we had to choose a replacement... there were so many things to consider ... which we did... and I would like to thank everyone who took part in that process. We are very happy with the choosing of Carol. She more than fits the bill.

But.... You don't need to be a rocket scientist to know that when you have to choose one person out of a group, that there will be hurt feelings.... How does one handle this? Shall I just say 'as delicately as possible'?

And then the organist resigned, so we had to go through another process to find a replacement for Sherry. Again, thanks to those who did all the behind the scenes work and found Spencer! Well done! We are very happy to have you, Spencer!

And we are not finished yet. We have the changes that are transpiring in the work of the choir. We love your contribution to the church services, gang. Hang in there, and things will get sorted out.

Many changes that are taking place in the world around us, we can do little about except pray.

But when the change is closer to us, we sometimes get pretty vocal.

Often, words get said that cannot be brought back after we cool off or when we take a while to think about what we perceived to have happened. Sometimes, the situation wasn't what we thought it was, at all. Then what do we do? (Remember God's assurance of pardon?)

Perhaps there is a more 'Christ-like' way to handle times like these. Before you fly off the handle.... Why not take a moment and think about the situation, and THEN ask yourself 'How would Christ handle this?' Take time to consider God's answer, then do it.

Or sometimes the situation is just too much for you. If this is the case, you need to hand the whole situation over to God. It is hard to remember at times that it is God who is in control, not you.

My granddaughter presented me with a wall hanger that says, 'Give it to God and go to sleep'. ..... I have it hanging in our bedroom.... A great message!

In our reading from Nehemiah, we find the people weeping as Ezra read the bible and explained things to them in language they could understand. We are not told why, but obviously, whatever Amos read to them must have 'hit home' so to speak.

Did Ezra reprimand them? Did he rant and rave or send an angry text or e-mail to the people? **NO**

Did he tell them how terrible they were? **NO**

Read Nehemiah 8: 9-10

We can learn from this reading.

This is how, as the body of Christ we should act!

Take your problems to God, leave your problems/ frustrations with Him,

Then as a wonderful hymn says, 'Rejoice and Be Glad' or another hymn says it a different way,

'Sing a New Song unto the Lord'.

Remember... we worship a great and awesome God!

And we are his living body.

Let us show the world what a difference God makes in our lives!

'Shine, Jesus Shine!'

Amen.