

Knowing Our Place

Romans 8:1-5

"The sad plight of the church today is obvious evidence that the true character of the church is misunderstood, or some of us would not behave as we do. We would treasure it instead of tearing it apart; we would love all men with the love of Christ, and our testimony would ring with a new level of concern. If we are ever to see the answer to our prayers for heaven-sent revival, the dead church must begin to live, the wounded church must be made whole, the indifferent church must be rekindled with the flame of Calvary love." Alan Redpath

- I. If we expect to be a blessing to Jesus and **his body** the church, then we must make every effort to be in a right relationship with him (Rom.12:1-2) and with others. This can only come about by having a proper assessment of ourselves in light of the gospel, knowing that all we've been given has been given to us by undeserving grace. When we think of ourselves more highly than we ought, we show a total lack of understanding of what we've been given through Christ.

Rom. 12:3

1 Cor. 1:21

φρονέω phronéō; to exercise the mind, to have understanding, be wise

Phil. 2:1-3,5 *If you have any encouragement from being united with Christ, if any comfort from his love, if any fellowship with the Spirit, if any tenderness and compassion, then make my joy complete by being like-minded, having the same love, being one in spirit and purpose. Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit, but in humility consider others better than yourselves... Your attitude should be the same as Christ Jesus.*

- II. Upon salvation, we automatically become an integral part of ***the body of Christ*** and interdependent upon one another for the spiritual wellbeing of his church. We can make his church healthy or unhealthy by our attitude toward maintaining a unified heart of love toward his precious, blood bought body. To disregard our oneness in Christ is to keep his body from building itself up in love, as each part does its work (Eph. 4:16).

Rom. 12:4-5

- III. ***The body of Christ*** is the temple where God dwells. It is a spiritual building he built with redeemed believers; a building he works in to express himself and fulfill his good, pleasing and perfect will. To disregard or treat lightly his temple is to keep ourselves from offering spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ (1 Peter 2:5).

1 Cor. 3:16-17

1 Cor. 3:9

Eph. 1:21-22

- IV. ***The body of Christ*** is a living spiritual organism whose parts support and depend on one another. Our goal is to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace because there is only one body, one Spirit, one Lord, one faith, one baptism, and one God whom we serve. *“Clearly you cannot have “one body in Christ” if everyone is creating a private a la carte religion for himself.” Boice*

Eph. 4:1-6

Gal. 3:26-28

1 Cor. 12:12-20

1 Cor. 12:13 *For we were all baptized by one Spirit into one body—whether Jews or Greeks, slave or free—and we were given the one Spirit to drink.*