

The Characteristics of a Healthy Body

1 Corinthians 12:12-31

"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 note of passionate 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. Every believer has been fully immersed into the body of Christ by the Holy Spirit, which means that we have become an inseparable part the vital life of our Lord and Savior as he works to accomplish his good, pleasing and perfect will through us. Our responsibility is to offer our bodies as living sacrifices by drinking deeply of the manifestation of the grace gifts we've been given through the Spirit.

1 Cor. 12:12-13

1 Cor. 12:4-5

Rom. 12:4-6

2 Timothy 1:6

1 Cor. 12:7

Eph. 4:11-13

Rom. 12:1-5

1 Peter 4:10-11 *10Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God's grace in its various forms. 11If anyone speaks, they should do so as one who speaks the very words of God. If anyone serves, they should do so with the strength God provides, so that in all things God may be praised through Jesus Christ. To him be the glory and the power for ever and ever. Amen.*

- II. God gives each of us the ability to serve his body so that we can bless others by building them up through the measure of **grace** we've been given. Anyone who thinks they are useless and unimportant to the body's spiritual wellbeing base their thoughts on **feelings**, instead of the **truth** of the Scriptures. Those who, with pride and arrogance, think too highly of themselves because they **feel** that their gifting is superior and more important than the others, fail to understand that the only one who is superior and more important is Jesus Christ. Both attitudes keep the body of Christ unhealthy.

1 Cor. 12:14-21

Psalm 84:10 *Better is one day in your courts than a thousand elsewhere; I would rather be a doorkeeper in the house of my God than dwell in the tents of the wicked.*

- III. The type of gifts that some in the body of Christ **feel** to be irrelevant are seen by the Lord as indispensable. He treats them with special honor, special modesty, and greater honor to indicate to us that every gift is precious to him. Consequently, they should be precious to us too. Our greatest concern, as we wait for our Lord's return, is to make sure that we stay united in his love, which is the most excellent way.

1 Cor. 12:22-31

1 John 4:7 *Dear friends, let us love one another, for love comes from God. Everyone who loves has been born of God and knows God.*