

ONE BODY MANY MEMBERS

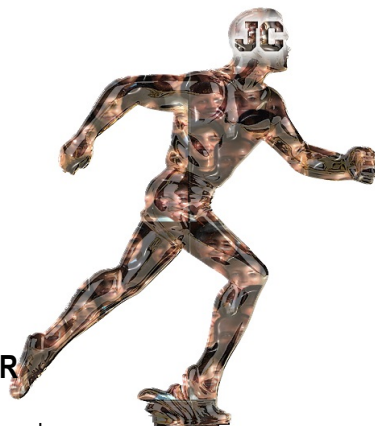
Romans 12:1-21

1 Corinthians 13; Revelation 2:1-7

God's Eternal Purpose

Growing as Disciples TOGETHER

- ★ Our goals for 2023:
 - Running **TOGETHER** and not by ourselves.
 - Praise and thanksgiving for all that God has done, is doing, and has promised to do for us! (Psalm 109:30; 1 Thessalonians 5:18)
 - AIM to please God in everything we do. (2 Corinthians 5:8-10)
 - Delighting in the Lord (Psalm 37:4; 119:47; Isaiah 58:14)
 - Stewardship of the grace/gifts we have received. (1 Peter 4:10-11)
 - Knowing and doing the will of God (Romans 12:1-2; James 1:22; Ephesians 5:15-17; Proverbs 2:1-5; Colossians 1:9-11; 4:20; 1 Peter 4:2)
 - "Imitate me as I imitate Christ" - (1 Corinthians 11:1; 4:16; Philippians 3:17; 1 Thessalonians 1:6; 2 Thessalonians 3:9; Hebrews 6:12; 13:7)
- ★ Meditating on our Catechism **TOGETHER**.
- ★ Memorizing & Meditating on God's Word **TOGETHER**.



8 January 2023

Having a Plan for 2023

- ☆ NO PLAN means you do not intend to grow in 2023.
 - ★ Just like making a plan is intentional, so too, not making a plan is intentional.
- ☆ Refusing to grow is to **DESPISE** the commands of God. (2 Peter 3:18-; 2 Peter 2:1-2; Colossians 1:9-11; Hebrews 5:13-14)
- ☆ Refusing to grow **WITH** and **PART** of the Church is to **DESPISE** God's purpose for **HIS** Church. (Ephesians 4:12-16)
- ☆ It is **IMPOSSIBLE** to keep saying that one is a Christian without growing as a part of a **LOCAL** church - much like a football player without a team.

Examining Ourselves (2 Corinthians 13:5; 2 Peter 1:10)

- Paul **commands**, by the authority of Christ, that the saints at Corinth **continually** examine themselves to see if they are in **the** faith or not. He uses the present tense, active voice, imperative mood for the verb "to examine".
- If we do not obey the **command** to continually examine ourselves we will not **repent**. "I tell you, . . . unless you repent you will all likewise perish." (Jesus Christ, Luke 13:3, 5)

- **REVIVAL happens when God's people REPENT of THEIR sins!**

What is Church? (Romans 12:4-5)

- ★ ONE BODY made up of God's special people. (1 Peter 2:9)
- ☆ MANY MEMBERS with special gifts.
- ★ ONE HEAD - as a body has one head, the Church has ONE HEAD - Jesus Christ, who is Head over all.
- ☆ The Body takes its directions from ONE HEAD - her MASTER..

What does the New Testament call the Church?

- He calls His Church – CHURCH! Literally, “called out ones”.
- He calls His Church – His Sheep. (John 10:11, 14-15, 26-29)
- He calls His Church – A Body (1 Corinthians 12:12-27)
- He calls His Church – His Temple/House (2 Cor 6:16; Eph 2:22; 1 Peter 2:5)
- He calls His Church – Household of Faith (Galatians 6:10)
- He calls His Church – A Royal Priesthood (1 Peter 2:9)
- He calls His Church – A Holy Nation (1 Peter 2:9)
- He calls His Church – His Own Special (**Peculiar**) People (1 Peter 2:9; Deut. 4:20; 7:6; Titus 2:14)
- He calls His Church – A Chosen (elite; picked out) Generation
- He calls His Church – His Elect (Matthew 24:22, 24, 31; Romans 8:33; 9:11; Colossians 3:12; 1 Thess 1:4; Titus 1:1)
- He calls His Church – Saints (Rom. 1:7; 2 Cor 1:1; Eph 1:1; Philip 1:1)
- He calls His Church – Brothers (Colossians 1:2; Hebrews 2:12, 17)
- He calls His Church – Disciples (Acts 6:1-2; 18:23; 20:7)
- He calls His Church – His Family (Hebrews 3:6; John 1:12-13; 3:3-8; James 1:18; 1 John 3:1, 2, 10; 5:1-3; Matthew 12:50)
- He calls His Church – the Pillar and Ground of TRUTH. (1 Tim 3:15)
- He calls His Church – Living stones being built up (1 Peter 2:5)
- He calls His Church – the Bride of Christ (Ephesians 5:25-27, 30-33)

BEING

One Body; Many Members with Responsibilities (Rom 12:1-21)

- (vv. 1-2) Offering Our Bodies as Living Sacrifices - our reasonable service.
- (vv. 1-2) Commanded not to be conformed to the world.
- (vv. 1-2) Commanded to be transformed.
- (v. 3) Have a right opinion of yourself. **J**esus **O**thers **Y**ourself!
- (vv. 4-5) **ONE** body with **MANY** members.
 - ☆ A body does **EVERYTHING TOGETHER**. If you are not doing what the body is doing you are NOT part of the body.
 - ★ By GOD's design His Churches grow by doing everything **TOGETHER**.

☆ Consider the first church (Acts 2:42-47)

- ✓ (v. 42) **They continued steadfastly** in DOCTRINE.
- ✓ (v. 42) **They continued steadfastly** in FELLOWSHIP.
- ✓ (v. 42) **They continued steadfastly** in BREAKING BREAD.
- ✓ (v. 42) **They continued steadfastly** in PRAYERS.
- ✓ (v. 46) **They continued daily** with ONE ACCORD.
- ✓ (v. 47) **They worshiped** TOGETHER.

★ What was the consequences of **BEING CHURCH**:

- ✓ (v. 43) They experienced the SUPERNATURAL.
- ✓ (vv. 44-45) They cared for (loved) each other.
- ✓ (v. 47) The Lord added to the church daily!

• (vv. 6-8) Being good stewards of the grace and gifts we were given. (**1 Peter 4:10-11; Matthew 25:14-30**)

- Every Christian is perfectly gifted by God to serve God's purpose.
- No two Christians are gifted in the same way. Each gift is tailored by God to fulfill God's purpose.
- Diversity in gifts but not doctrine.



- God perfectly gifts His children to fit perfectly into the body that He has put them. (1 Peter 4:10)
- God gifts His children so that their gifts serve others within the Body. (1 Corinthians 12:7, 11)
- God gifts His children so that they will be equipped to do the **works** that He saved them unto. (Ephesians 2:10)
- God sovereignly gives gifts. A Christian cannot gift themselves.

• **Responsibilities of each member of the Body:**

1. (v. 9) Love without hypocrisy.

1 Corinthians 13:4-8

- ♥ Love is PATIENT.
- ♥ Love is KIND.
- ♥ Love does not ENVY.
- ♥ Love does not BOAST.
- ♥ Love is not PROUD.
- ♥ Love is not RUDE.
- ♥ Love is not SELF-SEEKING.
- ♥ Love is not PROVOKED (to anger).
- ♥ Love THINKS **NO** EVIL. (does not keep records)
- ♥ Love does not REJOICE in sin.
- ♥ Love REJOICES in TRUTH.
- ♥ Love BEARS **all** things.
- ♥ Love always TRUSTS.
- ♥ Love always HOPES.



♥ Love **always** PERSEVERES (never fails; never gives up; never says, "I cannot anymore . . .")

2. (v. 9) Abhor evil - "to hate"; "have a horror of"
3. (v. 9) Cling to what is good - "to glue"; "to cement together"
4. (v. 10) Be kindly affectionate to one another with brotherly kindness - a natural love for Christians - 1 John 5:1
5. (v. 10) In honor giving preference to one another = to honor others above one self. Be a slave to each other. (Matt 20:26; 1 Peter 5:5)
6. (v. 11) Not lagging in diligence - "constant and earnest effort to accomplish what must be done"
7. (v. 11) Be fervent in spirit - "to boil with heat" - zealous
8. (v. 11) Serve the Lord - "to be a slave" - a slave does the will of the Master. (Hebrews 12:28; 1 Thess 1:9-10)
9. (v. 12) Rejoice in hope - our hope is in God's promises which are all "Amen" in Christ. (Romans 5:2-3; 2 Corinthians 1:20)
10. (v. 12) Patience/Endurance in Tribulation - "The characteristic of a man who is not swerved from his **deliberate purpose** and his **loyalty to faith and piety** by even the greatest trials and sufferings." (Romans 5:3-4; 8:25; Colossians 1:11)
11. (v. 12) Continue Steadfastly in Prayer together - See Colossians 4:12
12. (v. 13) Distributing to the needs of the saints - we are stewards of everything given to us! (1 John 3:17-18; 2 Cor 8:1-4; Gal 6:10)
13. (v. 13) Be given to hospitality - "pursuing the love of strangers" (Heb 13:2)
14. (v. 14) Bless those who persecute you - Present, Active, Imperative
15. (v. 14) Bless and do not curse them (Matt 5:44; Luke 6:28)
16. (v. 15) Rejoice with those who rejoice - continually. (1 Cor 12:26)
17. (v. 15) Weep with those who weep. (1 Cor 12:26; Hebrews 13:3)
18. (v. 16) Be of the same mind toward one another- 1 Cor 1:10; Rom 15:5-6; 16:17; 2 Cor 13:11; Ephesians 4:3; Philippians 2:1-2; 3:16
19. (v. 16) Do not be high minded; associate with the humble.
20. (v. 20) Do not be wise in your own eyes - Proverbs 3:5-7 - God created us to be totally dependent on Him for everything.
21. (v. 17) Repay no one evil for evil - (1 Thess 5:15; 1 Peter 3:8-9)
22. (v. 17) Respect what is right - always do what is right, good, and honorable.
23. (v. 18) Live in peace with everyone - pursue peace - forgive, settle differences quickly, do not hold grudges. (Hebrews 12:14)
24. (v. 19) Do not avenge yourself "not" = strongest negative. "Vengeance is MINE," says God. (Deut 32:35; Hebrews 10:30)
25. Overcome evil with good - Proverbs 25:21-22; Matt 5:44

One Body - One Head - Many Members - Are we?