

Discovering Your Place In The Body of Christ: 1

What Is the Body of Christ ?

Ephesians 1.22-23

- The Church - The church is the Body of Christ.

ekklesia – a calling out, gathering, assembly

Colossians 1.13 – we are called out of satan's kingdom and become citizens of kingdom of God. We become an assembly of God's people.

- Union between Jesus and the company of believers

1 Corinthians 6.19 – when we are saved the Holy Spirit comes into us and makes our bodies into His temple

1 Corinthians 12.13 – by the same Spirit we are baptized (immersed) into the Body of Christ

We are united with Christ and with all those blood washed that make up the church, the Body of Christ – this is family

- Commitment and submission to God and one another

Romans 12.4-5

It is through our commitment to God and to one another that God's purposes are fulfilled in the earth. We must all take our rightful place in the Body of Christ – God has created us specifically to serve our purpose and function within His Body.

We must be willing to accept the unique position which God has given us. Although we each differ in our talents, gifts and natural abilities; we are each necessary to the success of the Body

God placed you where you are – in a family, we do not choose our family members - we fit in to the family.

You fit in the church you were placed in, with all it's strengths and weaknesses.

- under the pastoral authority
- with the church's structure, vision and programme
- with those people
- with those facilities
- with the budget

Other churches will always look better, the grass will always look greener, they will do things different, act different – but you fit in where you are placed by God.

We should not try and be another church - If we submit ourselves to God and the Holy Spirit, the church will be what God intends it to be.

We are not whole or complete without one another – we are all important and all have a function to do.

If we do not function properly, as a body, we make the body 'sick'. Consider this in the light of our own bodies - If a part is hurting or sick then the whole body hurts.

Romans 12

- vs3-8 tell us about our attitude, relationship and service toward others.
- vs9-21 deal with the importance of love – gives practical ways to express that love.

Where Do We Fit In? What Function Do We Have?

1. Submit yourself to God's purpose for your life - We must be willing to accept whatever calling God has placed on our lives. 2 Corinthians 10.12
2. Don't try and get ahead of God - We must patiently give God time to reveal His place of services to us. Do those things that the Bible tells you to do – that's service.
3. Make yourself available - Many times God doesn't use the most talented or skilled person, but instead the most available. Get involved in the heartbeat of the church.
4. Consider how God has shaped you - Each of us has been divinely shaped with different talents, gifts, and abilities.
5. Listen to others for confirmation - Sometimes the comments and opinions of others can be a valuable asset to discovering your role. Don't rule out a word of wisdom or prophecy as a confirmation of what God has already told you to do.
6. Get Equipped - Seek out resources to train and prepare you for service. Take advantage of special training and equipping seminars offered to help prepare you to serve with excellence.
7. Be willing to make sacrifices - Every calling in the kingdom comes with a price. This testing only serves to strengthen our character and increase the level of anointing God can place on our lives.

Two things -

(i) God those He can trust

(ii) He will promote you to another level when you are over-qualified in the position you are at.