

The Body of Christ - the Church

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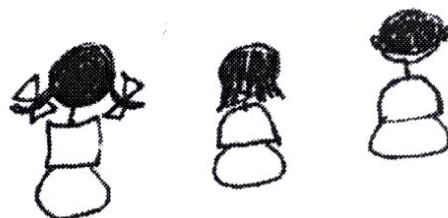


1 Corinthians 12:25-26 so that there may be no division in the body, but that the members may have the same care for one another. And if one member suffers, all the members suffer with it; if one member is honored, all the members rejoice with it

Galatians 3:27 For all of you who were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ.

As a believer, you are a part of the greatest body in the world. It is a spiritual body! It is called the body of Christ - the church. Jesus Christ is the Head of the body, and all believers are members or parts of it!

Ephesians 1:22-23 And He put all things in subjection under His feet, and gave Him as head over all things to the church, which is His body, the fullness of Him who fills all in all.



We are no longer to be tossed around by what the world teaches us. Through the power of God the Holy Spirit, we are to learn the thinking of Christ found in the Bible and obey the word of God; we are to grow up together in the body of Christ, serving, encouraging and praying for one another; we are to look to Jesus Christ, the Head, Who is our example. He came to earth to serve others and to obey the will of God the Father. What a great Head and example we have!



Ephesians 4:14-16 As a result, we are no longer to be children, tossed here and there by waves and carried about by every wind of doctrine, by the trickery of men, by craftiness in deceitful scheming; but speaking the truth in love, we are to grow up in all aspects into Him who is the head, even Christ, from whom the whole body, being filled and held together by what every joint supplies, according to the proper working of each individual part, causes the growth of the body for the building up of itself in love.



In the body of Christ, the church, we are to serve and encourage each other: *Ephesians 4:32 Be kind to one another, tender-hearted, forgiving each other, just as God in Christ also has forgiven you.*



We are to have close relationships with others: *Ephesians 5:19-21 Speaking to one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody with your heart to the Lord; always giving thanks for all things in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to God, even the Father; and be subject to one another in the fear of Christ.*



Proverbs 27:9-10 The heartfelt counsel of a friend is as sweet as perfume and incense. Never abandon a friend--either yours or your father's. When disaster strikes, you won't have to ask your brother for assistance. It's better to go to a neighbor than to a brother who lives far away. (NLT)



We are to pray for each other: *Ephesians 6:18 With all prayer and petition pray at all times in the Spirit, and with this in view, be on the alert with all perseverance and petition for all the saints.*



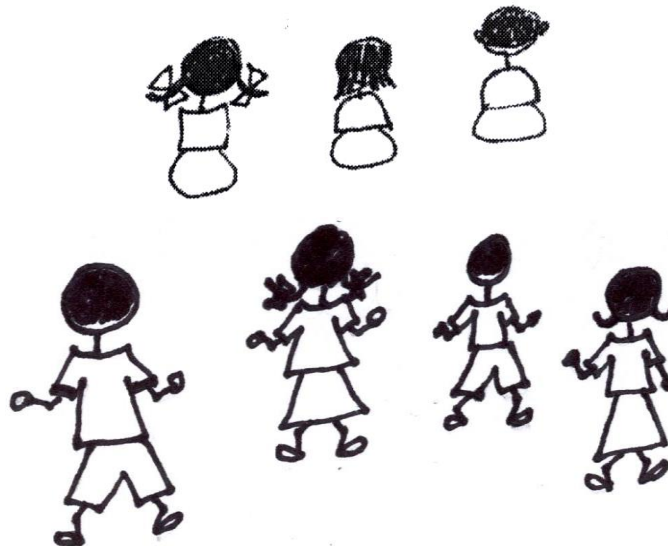
We are to use the spiritual gift God gave us:
Ephesians 4:12-13 ... for the equipping of the saints for the work of service, to the building up of the body of Christ; until we all attain to the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to a mature man, to the measure of the stature which belongs to the fullness of Christ.



We are to help each other: *Ephesians 2:10*
For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand so that we would walk in them.



Ephesians 5:21 Submit to one another out of reverence for Christ.



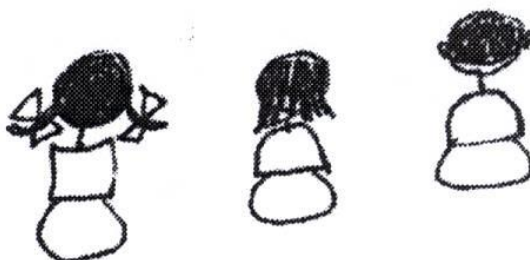
Ephesians 4:1-6 Therefore I, the prisoner of the Lord, implore you to walk in a manner worthy of the calling with which you have been called, with all humility and gentleness, with patience, showing tolerance for one another in love, being diligent to preserve the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. There is one body and one Spirit just as also you were called in one hope of your calling; one Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God and Father of all who is over all and through all and in all.

How can we possibly do what Paul is asking us to do in this Scripture? We can only do it through the power of God the Holy Spirit! He gives us the power to learn and then He teaches us the truths in the Bible. Then He gives us the power to live in those truths. God the Holy Spirit teaches us to walk in His power! Now that's walking!



John 14:26 "But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in My name, He will teach you all things, and bring to your remembrance all that I said to you.

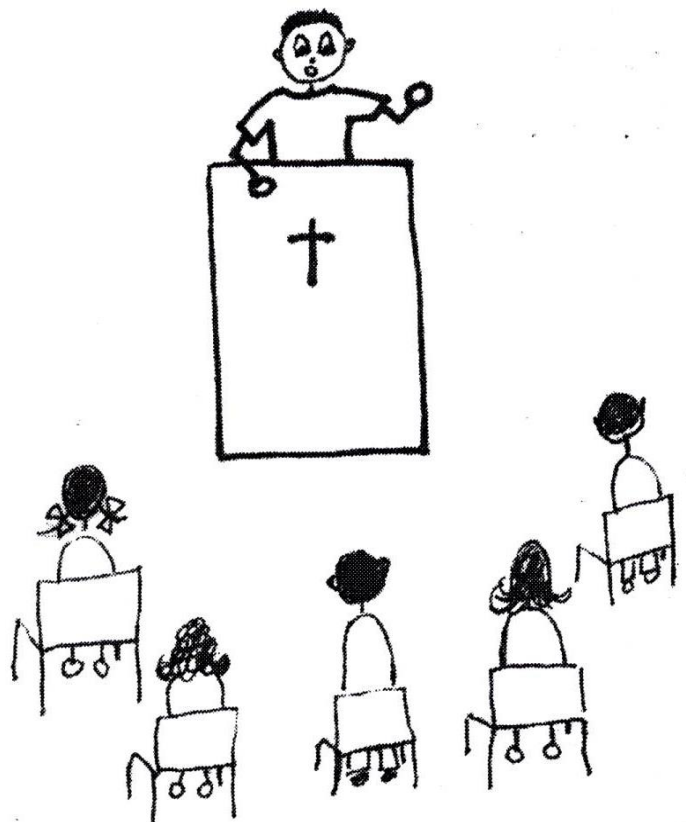
Galatians 5:16 But I say, walk by the Spirit, and you will not carry out the desire of the flesh.





We need to "hold fast to the Head" which means to be occupied with Jesus Christ. It means to have our minds filled by the Holy Spirit with the thinking of Christ found in the Bible. Sometimes we get too occupied with ourselves and our ways; we aren't occupied with Jesus Christ and His ways. That's just what Satan wants! He wants us to be confused and not live in the peace we have with the Lord. Satan wasn't occupied with Christ; he was occupied with himself! Ugly! We need to think the opposite of Satan. We need to get to the place of being occupied with Christ, having His thoughts!

Colossians 2:18-19 Let no one keep defrauding you of your prize by delighting in self-abasement and the worship of the angels, taking his stand on visions he has seen, inflated without cause by his fleshly mind, and not holding fast to the Head, from Whom the entire body, being supplied and held together by the joints and ligaments, grows with a growth which is from God.





Jesus Christ wants a special, personal relationship or involvement with you and me! On the cross He did all the work so that can happen. That relationship begins when we believe in Jesus Christ as our Savior. At

salvation, the Holy Spirit gives believers a brand new nature with a brand new life; we are put in union with Jesus Christ and we have eternal life in Him!

2 Corinthians 5:17 Therefore if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creature; the old things passed away; behold, new things have come.

Colossians 1:27 to whom God willed to make known what is the riches of the glory of this mystery among the Gentiles, which is Christ in you, the hope of glory.





Believers are in a common relationship with Him; we are one body with Jesus Christ as our Head! Just think about it. We are members of the body of Christ - the church! We are all to look to Christ as our Head and see how He treats us in grace and love. Through the power of the Holy Spirit, we are to treat each other in grace and love!

1 Corinthians 12:13 For by one Spirit we were all baptized into one body, whether Jews or Greeks, whether slaves or free, and we were all made to drink of one Spirit. 1 Corinthians 12:27 Now you are Christ's body, and individually members of it.

John 15:13-15 Greater love has no one than this, that one lay down his life for his friends. You are My friends if you do what I command you. No longer do I call you slaves, for the slave does not know what his master is doing; but I have called you friends for all things that I have heard from My Father I have made known to you.



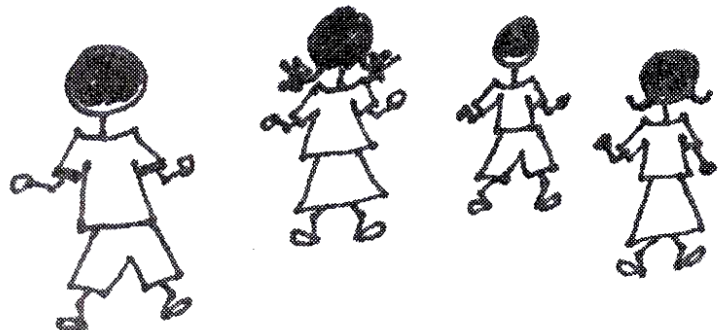
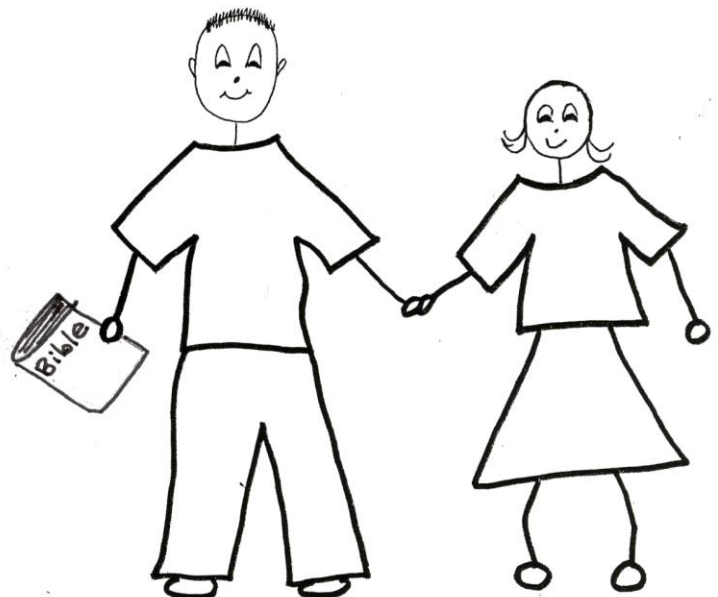
Ephesians 5:23 For the husband is the head of the wife, as Christ also is the head of the church, He Himself being the Savior of the body.

As Christ is the Head of the church, the husband is the head of his family. He has been appointed by God to be the top authority in his family. He is to operate in love in supplying the needs of his wife and children. The wife is to respect her husband and to be his helpmate. The children are to obey their parents, for that is the will of God. These commands will provide a good environment at home for all family members to grow in God's love, grace and word.

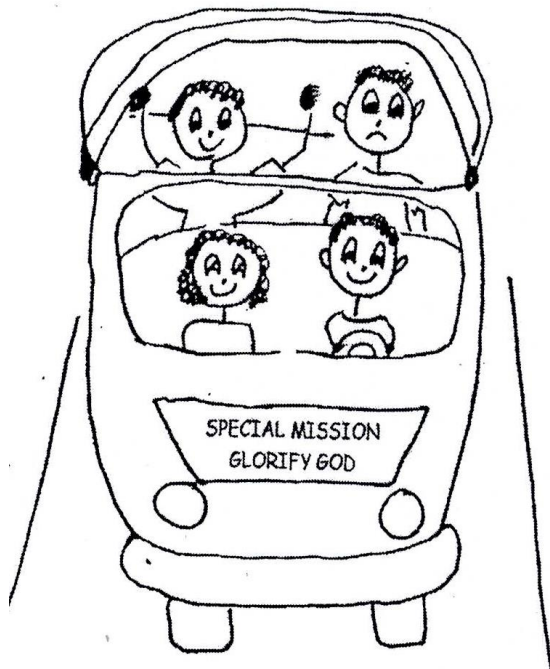
Ephesians 5:25-26 Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ also loved the church and gave Himself up for her, so that He might sanctify her, having cleansed her by the washing of water with the word.

Ephesians 5:22 Wives, be subject to your own husbands, as to the Lord.

Ephesians 6:1-3 Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right. HONOR YOUR FATHER AND MOTHER (which is the first commandment with a promise), SO THAT IT MAY BE WELL WITH YOU, AND THAT YOU MAY LIVE LONG ON THE EARTH.



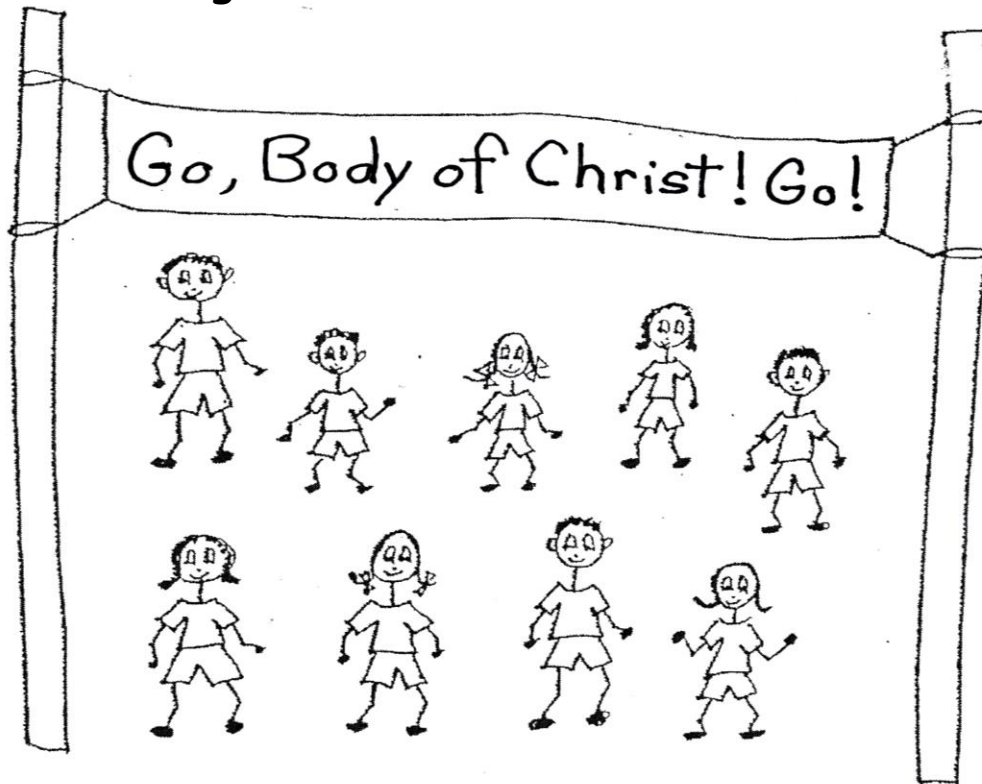
God has given us a family. He has designed it for our physical and spiritual growth. Sometimes our family is not following the design God has in mind. That is when we each need to step back and see what we are doing to hinder the family. To be on the right track, we have to cooperate with God the Holy Spirit; through the power of the Spirit, we need to learn the word of God and use it! We need to develop our relationships in the family based on the love of God, His grace, His word and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit.



2 Corinthians 13:14 The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit, be with you all.

Ephesians 5:1-2 Therefore be imitators of God, as beloved children; and walk in love, just as Christ also loved you and gave Himself up for us, an offering and a sacrifice to God as a fragrant aroma.

We are to live in the body of Christ the same way, based on the love of God, His grace, His word and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit. We share all of the above things and they give us a special friendship. They help us to serve each other! The way in which we serve will be different for each one of us. It will be a special blessing from God for us to give to someone; and the way someone serves us will be a special blessing for us! Everyone in the body of Christ gets served!



Ephesians 4:14-16 As a result, we are no longer to be children, tossed here and there by waves and carried about by every wind of doctrine, by the trickery of men, by craftiness in deceitful scheming; but speaking the truth in love, we are to grow up in all aspects into Him who is the head, even Christ, from whom the whole body, being fitted and held together by what every joint supplies, according to the proper working of each individual part, causes the growth of the body for the building up of itself in love.

God knows what we each need and when we need it. He takes care of all of our needs! He puts believers in our lives who will encourage us. There is great comfort in knowing and experiencing the companionship of believers who have the thinking of Christ. Let's live life to the fullest in God's grace, in His love, in His word and by the power of God the Holy Spirit! Let's live to show the glory of our Head, the Lord Jesus Christ!

Ephesians 3:20-21 Now to Him who is able to do far more abundantly beyond all that we ask or think, according to the power that works within us, to Him be the glory in the church and in Christ Jesus to all generation forever and ever. Amen



Body of Christ

The Head



The Parts

