

Church membership and Spiritual gifts

Do we have a passion to see the whole body of Christ fulfil its Holy calling, or do we just have a limited vision centred on ourselves?

As a Church, are we navel gazers and thereby humanly self-indulgent by excessively contemplating ourselves by ourselves, and our preoccupation with ourselves as it's only leadership, and the only protectors of the church, at the expense of the wider view that encompasses the whole work of the Holy Spirit and all His chosen and suitably equipped people of God.

2 Corinthians 10:12

For we are not bold to class or compare ourselves with some of those who commend themselves; but when they measure themselves by themselves and compare themselves with themselves, they are without understanding.

Our belief that we alone guard the flock is misguided; for the protection of the church is the prerogative of the Spirit of Christ working with all He provides and not just some of His servants working without His majestic power in all.

What does God say in His sacred and inherent word?

Matthew 16:18

"I will build My church; and the gates of Hades will not overpower it."

1 Corinthians 12:11

But one and the same Spirit works all these things, distributing to each one individually just as He wills.

What does the Bible say about who decides on where we will serve and the spiritual gifts we receive for the good of the Body of Christ?

No one can decide for themselves where and how they should serve. No man of a group of men have been given that privilege. The Spirit of God

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The trustworthy servant of Christ will be compelled to serve Christ where he is and with whatever gifts he has received under the compulsion of the Spirit of God.

Is it true that every member of the body of Christ has a part to play in fulfilling their function as they are being governed by the Spirit according to His determination?

Every member needs to be encouraged to use the gifts of the Spirit they have received by the grace of God. Is this consistent with Sola Scriptura?

In the first chapter of 1 Corinthians Paul wrote,

1 Corinthians 2:16

"For who has known the mind of the Lord, that he will instruct Him? But we have the mind of Christ."

The 'we' here is plural. It is *"those who love Him."* No individual, or special group knows it all.

1 Corinthians 2:9-12,16

[9]but just as it is written, "Things which eye has not seen and ear has not heard, And which have not entered the heart of man, All that God has prepared for those who love Him."

[10]For to us God revealed them through the Spirit; for the Spirit searches all things, even the depths of God.

[11]For who among men knows the thoughts of a man except the spirit of the man which is in him? Even so the thoughts of God no one knows except the Spirit of God.

[12]Now we have received, not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit who is from God, so that we may know the things freely given to us by God,

*[16]For who has known the mind of the Lord, that he will instruct Him?
But we (those who love Him) have the mind of Christ.*

Ephesians 4:15-1

Rather, speaking the truth in love, we are to grow up in every way into Him who is the head, into Christ, from whom the whole body, joined and held together by every joint with which it is equipped, when each part is working properly, makes the body grow so that it builds itself up in love.

1 Corinthians 12:4-7, 11-12,18, 20-22, 25-27

[4]Now there are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit.

[5]And there are varieties of ministries, and the same Lord.

[6]There are varieties of effects, but the same God who works all things in all persons.

[7]But to each one is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good.

[11]But one and the same Spirit works all these things, distributing to each one individually just as He wills.

[12]For even as the body is one and yet has many members, and all the members of the body, though they are many, are one body, so also is Christ.

[18]But now God has placed the members, each one of them, in the body, just as He desired.

[20]But now there are many members, but one body.

[21]And the eye cannot say to the hand, "I have no need of you"; or again the head to the feet, "I have no need of you."

[22]On the contrary, it is much truer that the members of the body which seem to be weaker are necessary;

[25]so that there may be no division in the body, but that the members may have the same care for one another.

[26]And if one member suffers, all the members suffer with it; if one member is honoured, all the members rejoice with it.

[27]Now you are Christ's body, and individually members of it.

John 17:21

"that they may all be one; even as You, Father, are in Me and I in You, that they also may be in Us, so that the world may believe that You sent Me."

This I believe to be true for everyone in Christ

By failing to accept the work of the Spirit in each person chosen and called by Christ, we reject their contribution to the body, and limit their potential and frustrated their passion for spiritual growth in Christ; it is the same as saying, *we don't need you, your contribution is not desired*; even as we reject the provision of the Spirit for the healthy and effectual building up of the body of Christ for the salvation of the world and for the glory of God.

Sola Scriptura

Unless I am convicted [convinced] of error by the testimony of Scripture, I stand convicted [convinced] by the Scriptures.

Bob May

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