

We are the body of Christ

We need to have a balance between what we do for Christ as Lord, and who we are collectively in Christ as we live for His glorified body on earth.

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' is not the individual leader or member, because the 'we' here is third person plural. Collectively we can to some degree, according to our maturity, have the mind of Christ.

Colossians 1:28

We proclaim Him, admonishing every man and teaching every man with all wisdom, so that we may present every man complete in Christ.

That which remains unsanctified in us is still under the dominion of pride. So, we can easily, and often do, think more highly of ourselves and what we think we know than we ought. That's why we are joined together as the body of Christ. We need each other so that we can be built up by one another.

1 Corinthians 12:4-27

Now there are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit. And there are varieties of ministries, and the same Lord. 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. For to one is given the word of wisdom through the Spirit, and to another the word of knowledge according to the same Spirit; to another faith by the same Spirit, and to another gifts of healing by the one Spirit, and to another the effecting of miracles, and to another prophecy, and to another the distinguishing of spirits, to another various kinds of tongues, and to another the interpretation of tongues. But one and the same Spirit works all these things, distributing to each one individually just as He wills. 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. 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. For the body is not one member, but many.

If the foot says, "Because I am not a hand, I am not a part of the body," it is not for this reason any the less a part of the body. And if the ear says, "Because I am not an eye, I am not a part of the body," it is not for this reason any the less a part of the body. If the whole body were an eye, where would the hearing be? If the whole were hearing, where would the sense of smell be?

But now God has placed the members, each one of them, in the body, just as He desired. If they were all one member, where would the body be?

But now there are many members, but one body. 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." On the contrary, it is much truer that the members of the body which seem to be weaker are necessary; and those members of the body which we deem less honourable, on these we bestow more abundant honour, and our less presentable members become much more presentable, whereas our more presentable members have no need of it. But God has so composed the body, giving more abundant honour to that member which lacked, 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 honoured, all the members rejoice with it.

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

And the 56 one another commands of the New Testament concerning body life

Fellowship means loving one another.

It should not be surprising that the most repeated command we have from God is to love one another. This love of God for one another is the love that seeks the highest good for all, just as God in Christ seeks to transform us into the image of Christ. The one another verses of the Bible that relate to our shared lives in Christ indicate what His fellowship is supposed to look like as we love one another. One another X57

Love one another. X17

A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another, even as I have loved you, that you also love one another. John 13:34

By this all men will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another.” John 13:35

“This is My commandment, that you love one another, just as I have loved you. John 15:12

This I command you, that you love one another. John 15:17

Be devoted to one another in brotherly love; Rom 12:10

give preference to one another in honour. Rom 12:10

Owe nothing to anyone except to love one another; Rom 13:8

Abound in love for one another, 1 Thess 3:12

you yourselves are taught by God to love one another; 1 Thess 4:9

the love of each one of you toward one another grows *ever* greater; 2 Thess 1:3

a sincere love of the brethren, fervently love one another from the heart, 1 Peter 1:22

keep fervent in your love for one another, because love covers a multitude of sins. 1 Peter 4:8

we should love one another; 1 John 3:11

and love one another, just as He commanded us. 1 John 3:23

Beloved, let us love one another, for love is from God; and everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. 1 John 4:7

Beloved, if God so loved us, we also ought to love one another. 1 John 4:11

if we love one another, God abides in us, and His love is perfected in us. 1 John 4:12

Now I ask you, lady, not as though *I were* writing to you a new commandment, but the one which we have had from the beginning, that we love one another. 2 John 1:5

39 ways we are to love one another

Wash one another's feet."	John 13:14
Be at peace with each other."	Mark 9:50
Be of the same mind.	Rom 12:16; Rom 15:5
let us not judge one another anymore,	Rom 14:13
Build up one another.	Rom 14:19
Accept one another.	Rom 15:7
Abel to admonish one another.	Rom 15:14; Col 3:16
Greet one another with a holy kiss.	m 16:16; 1 Cor 16:20; 2 Cor 13:12
Have the same care for one another.	1 Cor 12:25
Serve one another.	Gal 5:13
Showing tolerance for one another in love.	Eph 4:2
SPEAK TRUTH EACH ONE...for we are members of one another.	Eph 4:25
Be kind to one another, tender-hearted, forgiving each other	Eph 4:32
Speaking to one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs.	Eph 5:19
Be subject to one another in the fear of Christ.	Eph 5:21
with humility of mind regard one another as more important than yourselves;	Phil 2:3
bearing with one another, and forgiving each other,	Col 3:13
with all wisdom teaching and admonishing one another	Col 3:16
comfort one another.	1 Thess 4:18
encourage one another.	1 Thess 5:11 Heb 10:25
build up one another.	1 Thess 5:11
Live in peace with one another.	1 Thess 5:13
always seek after that which is good for one another.	1 Thess 5:15

But encourage one another day after day,	Heb 3:13
stimulate one another to love and good deeds.	Heb 10:24
encouraging <i>one another</i>	Heb 10:25
Do not speak against one another	James 4:11
Do not complain, brethren, against one another,	James 5:9
Therefore, confess your sins to one another,	James 5:16
pray for one another.	James 5:16
Be hospitable to one another.	1 Peter 4:9
As each one has received a <i>special</i> gift, employ it in serving one another.	1 Peter 4:10
keep fervent in your love for one another.	1 Peter 4:8
have fellowship with one another.	1 John 1:7

Loving one another is grace abounding

1 Corinthians 13:4-13

Love is patient, love is kind and is not jealous; love does not brag and is not arrogant, does not act unbecomingly; it does not seek its own, is not provoked, does not take into account a wrong suffered, does not rejoice in unrighteousness, but rejoices with the truth; bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things. Love never fails; but if there are gifts of prophecy, they will be done away; if there are tongues, they will cease; if there is knowledge, it will be done away. For we know in part and we prophesy in part; but when the perfect comes, the partial will be done away. When I was a child, I used to speak like a child, think like a child, reason like a child; when I became a man, I did away with childish things. For now we see in a mirror dimly, but then face to face; now I know in part, but then I will know fully just as I also have been fully known. But now faith, hope, love, abide these three; but the greatest of these is love.

To the degree we neglect these truths about the love of Christ in His people, is to the degree we neglect our unity in Christ and separate His chosen ones from one another. The level of our compliance to the

command of Christ to love one another will not exceed our inept naive preconceptions about our knowledge of the whole truth. To deny support to a brother who asks for help who has not violated the truth is to deny the life of Christ to His body. Our flesh claims great things but inhibits our love for one another.

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."

Without humility there can be no life in the body.

Ephesians 4:2-7

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. But to each one of us grace was given according to the measure of Christ's gift.

What we do comes out of who we are. Who we are depends on how well we have been worked out our sanctification that God is working in us.

Phil 2:12-14

So then, my beloved, just as you have always obeyed, not as in my presence only, but now much more in my absence, work out your salvation with fear and trembling; for it is God who is at work in you, both to will and to work for His good pleasure. Do all things without grumbling or disputing.

Romans 13:14

But put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to gratify its desires.

Since our Christ has determined that His life will be lived out through His body the church, and we are dependent on God for the ability to will and do, so, we are dependent on each other walking by the enabling of the Spirit of God in Christ's body, us.

If the body is dis-eased by often being unsanctified through a lack of true diligence by its members living for Christ under the governance of the Spirit in all things, then we will not be a true reflection of Christ's love, then we will be a stumbling block to the world.

The deception that causes disease is from our unsanctified parts

It is our unsanctified parts that grumble and complain about others. Our dissatisfaction is not about them, but about God who is using them to teach us about what is sinful in us. We complain about what God doing. This is pride, we take the responsibility of God for ourselves.

Rom 8:6

The mind governed by the flesh is death, but the mind governed by the Spirit is life and peace.

Our unsanctified parts make assumptions about the unsanctified parts of others, and then we join them in duplicity. Duplicity is acting in bad faith; a deception by pretending to entertain one set of intentions while acting under the influence of another. This is sinful flesh.

Nobody is as good as they think they are, so we can easily feel let down by everyone, therefore we are called on to be forgiving to everyone just as our Lord is forgiving to us.

Eph 4:32

Be kind to one another, tender-hearted, forgiving each other, just as God in Christ also has forgiven you.

Col 3:5

Put to death, therefore, whatever belongs to your earthly nature.

The time for forgiveness is before the sun goes down. (Eph 4:6) Otherwise we will have spiritual indigestion and heart burn until we do.

Complaining and disputing about others is a sure sign we are not happy with the way God is working to will and do at this time in the lives of others and ourselves.

Instead of complaining, we can pray that that the Spirit might remove any cause of complaint from the lives of others and ourselves as we more abundantly comply with His Holy and incorruptible Word

When others or indeed ourselves don't reflect the life of Christ, it is due to our unsanctified parts.

Psalm 58

Do you indeed decree what is right, you gods? Do you judge the children of man uprightly? No, in your hearts you devise wrongs; your hands deal out violence on earth.

Our trials and tribulations reveal the work still to be done for our sanctification. The problem is within. Trust in Christ and stop complaining so you can more easily be transformed into His image.

The main message of the church is Christ

Christ in us and us in Him comes firsts, and as His witnesses to His person and work we proclaim the salvation that is in Christ in preaching the gospel of His salvation.

The relationship with Him and one another comes first and then the proclamation of what He has done in us and makes available to all who will repent and believe in Him as their Lord and Master.

www.cometothestream.com