

"MEMBERS ONE OF ANOTHER"

(Ephesians 4:25)

I. INTRODUCTION.

- A. The Eternal Purpose Of God Is Reflected Through The Church Of Christ (Eph. 3:10-11). In The Church, The Body Of All The Redeemed Ones (Eph. 5:23; 2:16), Is Made Known The Significance Of Our Subject, "Members One Of Another."
1. Those who are "in Christ" share a mutual fellowship both with Christ and one another. (1 Cor. 1:9; 1 John 1:7)
 2. To be called a son/daughter of God is the greatest calling of man. As such, we make up the family of God and share a relationship of "brothers" and "sisters" to Christ and each other. (Rom. 8:12-17)
- B. The Expression, "Members One Of Another," Indicates An Intimate Relationship And Is Illustrated In The New Testament By The Way In Which The Human Body Functions, As Well As The Marriage Bond.

II. AIM.

- A. To Discuss The Relationship Of Those Who Have Been Born Into God's Family, The Church, The Body Of Christ.
- B. To Help Us To Be Drawn More Closely "Together" Because Of The Bond Of Fellowship Purchased For Us Through The Cross Of Christ. (Eph. 2:16-22)

III. OUTLINE.

- A. "WE ARE MEMBERS ONE OF ANOTHER." (Eph. 4:25)
1. Definition of terms.
 - a. "Members" - Gk. μέλος, melos, "a limb or member of the body."
 - b. "One of another" - Gk. ἀλλήλων, allēlōn, "one another; reciprocally mutually."

- c. J. B. Phillips translates *Ephesians 4:25* as follows, "... For we are not separate units but intimately related to one another in Christ. ..."
 - d. Chrysostom says: "Let not the eye lie to the foot, nor the foot to the eye. If there be a deep pit, and its mouth covered with reeds shall present to the eye the appearance of solid ground, will not the eye use the foot to ascertain whether it is hollow underneath, or whether it is firm and resists? Will the foot tell a lie, and not the truth as it is? And, what, again, if the eye were to spy a serpent or a wild beast, will it lie to the foot?"
2. The church of Christ is a body. It is the body of Christ.
- a. *Rom. 12:4-21 (ver. 4)*. "Many members in one body."
 - b. *1 Cor. 12:12-31 (Note: ver. 18)* "...God set the members each one of them in the body, even as it pleased him."
 - 1) The unity of the body. (*ver. 12*)
 - 2) The entrance into the body. (*ver. 13*)
 - 3) The harmony of the body. (*vs. 14-26*)
 - a) Two faults spoken of.
 - (1) Envyng. (*vs. 14-20*)
 - (2) Despising. (*vs. 21-26*)
 - b) Two charitable considerations. (*ver. 25*)
 - (1) The unity of the body.
 - (2) The charity of its members.
 - 4) The identification of the body. (*ver. 27*)
 - 5) The responsibilities of the body. (*vs. 28-31*)

- c. *Ephesians* especially, teaches this great subject.
 - 1) *Eph. 1:22-23*. Christ the head of the church/body.
 - 2) *Eph. 2:13-22*. Jew and Gentile reconciled by the blood of Christ in one body. (*ver. 16*)
 - 3) *Eph. 4:4*. There is but one body/church.
 - 4) *Eph. 4:11-16*. Members of the body and their purpose.
 - 5) *Eph. 5:22-33*. Christ is the Savior of the body. The church/body is like the intimate marriage relationship.

B. WE HAVE RESPONSIBILITIES TO OTHER MEMBERS OF THE BODY.

- 1. The responsibilities are many.
 - a. Speaking one to another. (*Eph. 5:19*)
 - b. Serving one another. (*Eph. 5:21*)
 - c. Admonishing one another. (*Col. 3:16*)
 - d. Forgiving one another. (*Eph. 4:32 cf. Col. 3:12*)
 - e. Preferring one another. (*Rom. 12:10*)
 - f. Teaching one another. (*Col. 3:16*)
 - g. Kind one to another. (*Eph. 4:32*)
 - h. Loving one another. (*Eph. 4:2, 15 cf. John 13:34-35*)
 - i. Forbearing one another. (*Col. 3:13*)
 - j. Tenderhearted one to another. (*Eph. 4:32*)
 - k. True to one another. (*Col. 3:9 cf. Eph. 4:15*)
 - 1. Same mind one toward another. (*Rom. 12:16 cf. Phil. 2:2*)

2. The responsibilities teach us how much we are dependent upon one another. WE NEED EACH OTHER!

a. This applies to each member and in every circumstance.

1) We are one in Christ.

2) We have varied backgrounds and secular status and pursuits. Yet we need each other in Christ. We have one common goal (*Phil. 3:13-14*), and to attain it, we need the help of each other.

b. This applies also to defects in the body. One member covers up the shortcomings of another member.

1) Is that true among Christians? Do you cover-up or expose?

2) It is a mark of spiritual maturity to draw the curtain of silence across the stage where accusation might be made.

3) Treat with kindness the flaws of others.

4) Hide scars with tears. Make beautiful that which may be ugly.

c. Quote by Laurin:

*"Could we only draw the curtain
That surrounds each others' lives-
See the naked heart and spirit,
Know what spur to action drives;
Often we should find it better,
Purer than we judge we should,
We should love each other better
If only we understood.
If we knew the cares and trials-
Knew the efforts all in vain,
And the bitter disappointments,
Understood the loss and gain;
Would the grim, external roughness,
Seem, I wonder, just the same?
Should we help, where now we hinder?
Should we pity, when we blame?"*

C. YOU HAVE BEEN SET INTO THE BODY BY GOD AS A KEY MEMBER. (*1 Cor. 12:18*)

1. You, therefore, as an individual member of the body of Christ, are very important to the proper functioning of the whole body.
 - a. Don't undervalue your importance. (*1 Cor. 12:12-31*)
 - 1) Self-depreciation is condemned. (*vs. 15-19*)
 - 2) Depreciation of others is condemned. (*ver. 21*)
 - b. Don't wait to see what others are going to do.
 - 1) *1 Cor. 15:58.*
 - 2) *James 1:26-27.*
 - 3) God has given us a work to do - Let's do it!
 - c. Don't go along just for the ride. (*cf. Luke 13:6-9*). Be a part of the work.
2. God has given us a work to do. The success of this congregation (family of God) is dependent upon the functioning of each part.
 - a. *Eph. 2:10.*
 - b. *Titus 2:14.*
 - c. God works in you, both to will and to work. (*Phil. 2:13*). Let Him work in you. Yield yourself to Him. (*Rom. 6:12-16*). Yielded bodies are what God wants! (*Rom. 12:1*)

IV. CONCLUSION.

- A. The Reason For Every Christian Attitude And Manner Is Because Of Our Relationship To Each Other. The Reason, Paul Says, In *Ephesians 4:25*, For Telling The Truth, Is Because "*We Are Members One Of Another.*"
 1. There must be no deception in Christ's body, the church.
 2. We can only live in safety because the senses and the nerves pass true messages to the brain. What if the senses and nerves said to the brain that a hot flame was cool and touchable?

- B. As Members One Of Another Let's Prefer, Serve,
And Love One Another. Let's Sum Up This Lesson By
Singing The Beautiful Words Of The Song, "How Sweet
How Heavenly," By William B. Bradbury.

*"How sweet, how heav'n-ly, is the sight, When those
that love the Lord
In one an-oth-er's peace de-light, And so ful -
fill the word.*

*When each can feel his broth-er's sigh, And with
him bear a part;
When sor-row flows from eye to eye, And joy from
heart to heart.*

*When, free from en-vy, scorn, and pride, Our wish-
es all a-bove,
Each can his broth-er's fail-ings hide, And show
a broth-er's love.*

*When love in one de-light-ful stream Thro' ev -
'ry bos - om flows;
When un-ion sweet and dear es-teem In ev - 'ry
ac-tion glows.*

*Love is the gold-en chain that binds The hap - py
souls a-bove;
And he's an heir of heav'n who finds His bos-om
glow with love."*