

THE BODY OF CHRIST AND THE LOCAL CHURCH

GOD'S FAMILY PLAN

CHURCH UNITY

Key Scriptures: Psalm 133:1-3, 2 Chronicles 5:13-14, Acts 2:1-4, Acts 4:24-35

It is the will and heart of our Father that His church and the brethren dwell together in unity. The blessings He has promised to those in His unity are incomparable. The fruit that comes forth is everlasting. His presence rests and abides in the unity of the saints. With singleness of heart and surrendered lives, **we will experience the glory of God!**

1. What blessings are promised and displayed in unity and oneness?

2. How can we have these types of signs and wonders in our midst?

PREFERRING ONE ANOTHER

Key Scriptures: Mat. 20:25-28, Mat. 23:11-12, Romans 12:10-11, Eph. 4:1-6, John 13:34-35

Eliminating selfishness and serving each other whole-heartedly is the example set by our Lord. This is the standard that we are commanded to live out, that we may truly reflect His heart for us. The world teaches a life of "self" fulfillment with selfish goals and superficial, spiritually empty promises. That way only leads to greed, want and lust. God teaches us that true fulfillment is in putting Him, and others first. Our life is found when we lay it down, and the greatest among us is the servant of all.

1. How does God's way of preferring others differ from the worlds ways of self-promotion?

2. According to Eph. 4:1-6, how can we walk worthy of the Lord?

3. How will all the world know that we are His disciples? How is that demonstrated?

INVOLVEMENT WITH THE LOCAL CHURCH

Key Scriptures: Acts 6:1-7, Romans 12:3-5, 1 Cor. 12:18-28, Eph. 4:16

God has placed each member into the Body as it has pleased Him. We all have need of one another and depend on one another's gifts, graces, and supplies. As each member brings their supply, the Body is complete and grows together in love!

You are gifted and graced by God, and you have a supply to bring the Body. Keeping a heart of servitude and honor will keep the graces flowing. Ask the Lord, and your pastors, what you can do to help and be a blessing. As you serve, serve with your whole heart, as unto the Lord not man, then He will promote you!

1. What characteristics were the apostles looking for in men when they needed help?

3. How are the individual members/parts of the Body supposed to interact?

HOW TO INTERACT WITH THE BODY

Key Scriptures: 1Peter 2:2-3, Eph. 4:11-15, Heb. 13:7, 1 Tim. 5:17, 1 Tim. 1:5

The Body of Christ is very similar to a family. In a family, there are some rules to protect you, and to promote growth in you! We are also given Pastors and leaders, to help raise us up and keep us focused on the goals. God already sees His family "The Body" as the finished result, in it's maturity, as perfect and holy before Him.

1. Why has God given us spiritual leaders?

2. Can we grow to be fully successful in the Lord without leaders and Godly counsel in the Body?

THE HEART OF SUBMISSION

Key Scriptures: Eph. 5:21, Philippians 2:1-5, Col. 3:12-17, Acts 2:44-47, Heb. 10:24-25

There is no competition against one another, and there is no reason to exercise man's authority over one another. When we individually see our own value, as Father sees our value, it makes it easy to submit to the leadership He has placed in our lives! The goal is that we all serve and honor one another in love and sincerity.

As we give ourselves to the heart of submission, not just the "religious do's and don'ts" of church membership, we will see what a privilege it is to be joined to the family of God, the Body of Christ.

1. What is the mindset of Jesus Christ?

2. What is the heart of godly submission?
