

SUBJECT: Spiritual Growth – Together We Grow

TEXT: Ephesians 2:19 – 22

OBJECTIVE: To show that spiritual growth of an individual Believer is contingent upon being in fellowship with God and in fellowship with other members of the Body of Christ.

SUPPORTING SCRIPTURES FROM EPHESIANS

Ephesians 1:22, 23

And hath put all things under His feet, and gave Him to be the head over all things to the church, Which is His body, the fullness of Him that filleth all in all.

Ephesians 2:19 – 22

Now, therefore, ye are no more strangers and foreigners, but fellow citizens with the saints and of the household of God; And are built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ Himself being the chief corner stone. In whom all the building fitly framed together groweth unto an holy temple in the Lord; In whom ye also are built together for an habitation of God through the Spirit.

Ephesians 3:17 – 19

That Christ may dwell in your hearts by faith; that ye, being rooted and grounded in love, May be able to comprehend, with all saints, what is the breadth, and length, and depth, and height, And to know the love of Christ, which passes knowledge, that ye might be filled with all the fullness of God.

Ephesians 4:11 – 16

And He gave some apostles; and some, prophets; and some, evangelists; and some, pastors and teachers; For the perfecting of the saints for the work of the ministry for the edifying of the body of Christ, Till we all come in the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, unto a perfect man, unto the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ; That we henceforth be no more children, tossed to and fro, and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the sleight of men, and cunning craftiness, by which they lie in wait to deceive; But, speaking the truth in love, may grow up into Him in all things, who is the head, even Christ; From whom the whole body fitly joined together and compacted by that which every joint supplieth, according to the effectual working in the measure of every part, maketh increase of the body unto the edifying of itself in love.

GROWING THROUGH CHRIST, THE HEAD OF THE BODY

Colossians 2:18, 19

Let no man beguile you of your reward in a voluntary humility and worshipping of angels, intruding into those things which he hath not seen, vainly puffed up by his fleshly mind, And not holding the Head, from whom all the body by joints and bands having nourishment ministered, and knit together, increaseth with the increase of God.

- By maintaining a proper relationship with Christ as the Head of the Body, you will be able to maintain a proper relationship with all other members of the Body of Christ.
- Because Christ is the Head of the Church, and the Church is the Body of Christ, the whole Body is summed up in the Head. It is impossible for anything in the Body to live apart from the Head.
- If our human body is separated from the head, that will automatically mean death to the other members of our human body.

DIVISION HINDERS GROWTH

1 Corinthians 12:14 – 27

For the body is not one member, but many. If the foot shall say, Because I am not the hand, I am not of the body; is it, therefore, not of the body? And if the ear shall say, Because I am not the eye, I am not of the body; is it, therefore, not of the body? If the whole body were an eye, where were the hearing? If the whole were hearing, where were the smelling? But now hath God set the members, every one of them, in the body, as it hath pleased Him.

And if they were all one member, where were the body? But, now are they many members, yet but one body. And the eye cannot say unto the hand, I have no need of thee; nor again the head to the feet, I have no need of you. Nay, much more those members of the body which seem to be more feeble, are necessary: And those members of the body, which we think to be less honorable, upon these we bestow more abundant honor: and our uncomely parts have more abundant comeliness.

For our comely parts have no need; but God hath tempered the body together, having given more abundant honor to that part which lacked, That there should be no schism in the body, but that the members should have the same care one for another. And whether one member suffer, all the members suffer with it; or one member be honored, all the members rejoice with it. Now ye are the body of Christ, and members in particular.

- All thoughts, words, attitudes and actions which are divisive and sectarian in spirit towards any member of the Body of Christ, is in reality saying, "I have no need of thee."
- God has set each member in the Body of Christ as it has pleased Him; every member has his/her proper place and function. We must beware of thinking of ourselves more highly than we ought to think. Whatever God has given you to do, be faithful in that portion. But also respect the portion He has given to others. (Romans 12:3 – 5)
- Realize that you are only one member. We need to see ourselves not only as Believers but even more so as members. We are members; therefore, we are not the whole (only a very, very small part of Christ's body). There is much freedom in viewing oneself in this truth.

DWELLING TOGETHER IN UNITY

Psalm 133

Behold, how good and how pleasant it is for brethren to dwell together in unity! It is like the precious ointment upon the head, that ran down upon the beard, even Aaron's beard; that went down to the skirts of his garments, Like the dew of Hermon, and like the dew that descended upon the mountains of Zion; for there the Lord commanded the blessing, even life for evermore.

1 John 1:2, 3

(For the life was manifested, and we have seen it, and bear witness, and show unto you that eternal life, which was with the Father, and was manifested unto us.) That which we have seen and heard declare we unto you, that ye also may have fellowship with us; and truly our fellowship is with the Father, and with His Son, Jesus Christ. And these things write we unto you, that your joy may be full.

- Cultivate the spirit of not seeing yourself as separate from any other member of the Body or any ministry of the Church. Learn to see yourself as one with them. Be aware of the truth, "If they fail; I fail/we fail." "If they succeed; I succeed/we succeed." (1 Corinthians 12:26)

- As any member of the Body is fulfilling its function, the other members of the Body are to be praying. Beware of becoming passive – we are members of the Body, not spectators. As we gather with other members of the Body:
 - PRAY that God would be glorified in their ministry.
 - PRAY for the success of the ministry.
 - PRAY that Jesus Christ will be exalted through their ministry.
 - PRAY that the saints will be edified through their ministry.
 - PRAY that sinners would be saved through their ministry.
 - PRAY that the enemy would be bound from their ministry.

CONCLUSION

Ephesians 4:4 – 6

There is one body, and one Spirit, even as ye are called in one hope of your calling; One Lord, one faith, one baptism, One God and Father of all, who is above all, and through all, and in you all.

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