

The Body of Christ - the Church

3-11-2016

Ephesians 1:22-23 And He put all things in subjection under His feet, and gave Him as head over all things to the church, which is His body, the fullness of Him who fills all in all.

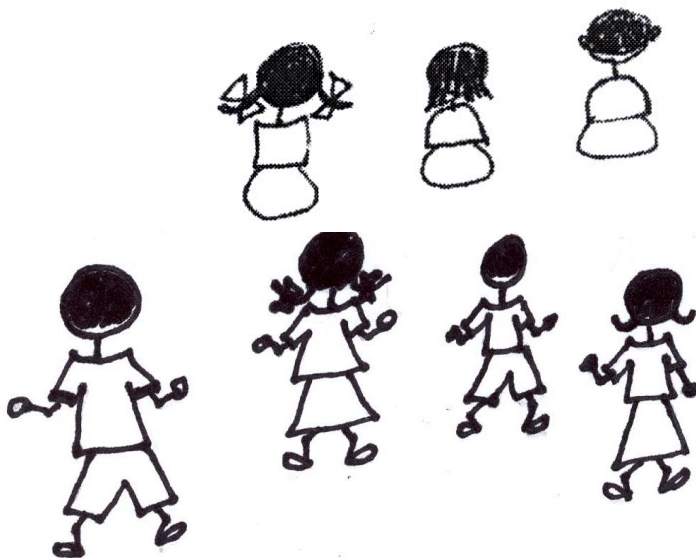


As a believer, you are a part of the greatest body in the world. It is a spiritual body! It is called the body of Christ - the Church. Jesus Christ is the Head of the body, and all believers are members or parts of it! We are to learn the thinking of Christ found in the Bible and obey the word of God! We are no longer to be tossed around by what the world teaches us. We are to grow up together in the body of Christ, serving, encouraging and praying for one another. We are to

look to Jesus Christ, the Head, Who is our example; He came to earth to serve others and to obey the will of God His Father. What a great Head and example we have!



Ephesians 4:14-16 As a result, we are no longer to be children, tossed here and there by waves and carried about by every wind of doctrine, by the trickery of men, by craftiness in deceitful scheming; but speaking the truth in love, we are to grow up in all aspects into Him who is the head, even Christ, from whom the whole body, being filled and held together by what every joint supplies, according to the proper working of each individual part, causes the growth of the body for the building up of itself in love.





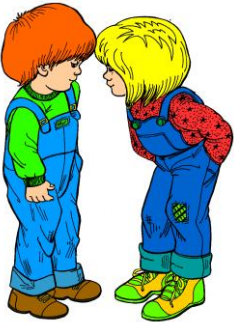
In the body of Christ, the Church, we are to serve and encourage each other: *Ephesians 4:32 Be kind to one another, tender-hearted, forgiving each other, just as God in Christ also has forgiven you.*



We are to have close relationships with others: *Proverbs 17:17 A friend loves at all times, And a brother is born for adversity. (NKJV)*

Proverbs 18:24 There are "friends" who destroy each other, but a real friend sticks closer than a brother. (NLT)

Proverbs 27:9-10 The heartfelt counsel of a friend is as sweet as perfume and incense. Never abandon a friend--either yours or your father's. When disaster strikes, you won't have to ask your brother for assistance. It's better to go to a neighbor than to a brother who lives far away. (NLT)



We are to pray for each other: *Ephesians 6:18 With all prayer and petition pray at all times in the Spirit, and with this in view, be on the alert with all perseverance and petition for all the saints.*





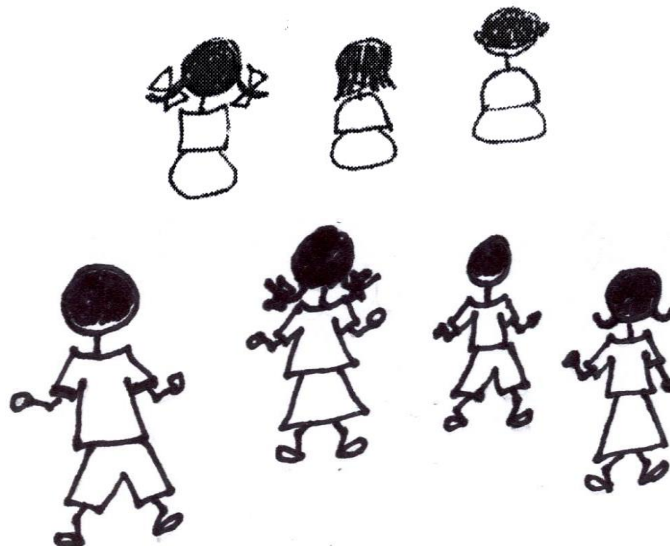
We are to use the spiritual gift God gave us: *Ephesians 4:12-13 ... for the equipping of the saints for the work of service, to the building up of the body of Christ; until we all attain to the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to a mature man, to the measure of the stature which belongs to the fullness of Christ.*



We are to help each other: *Ephesians 2:10*
For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand so that we would walk in them.



Ephesians 5:21 Submit to one another out of reverence for Christ. NIV (Read Ephesians 5:15-21.)

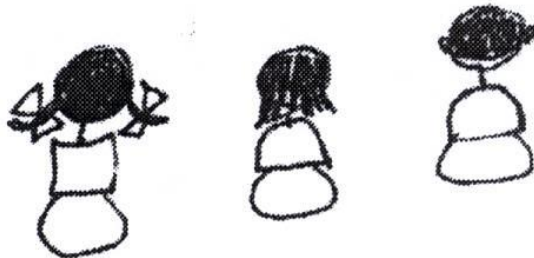


Ephesians 4:1-6 Therefore I, the prisoner of the Lord, implore you to walk in a manner worthy of the calling with which you have been called, with all humility and gentleness, with patience, showing tolerance for one another in love, being diligent to preserve the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. 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.

How can we possibly do what Paul is asking us to do in this Scripture? Through the power of God the Holy Spirit! He teaches us the truths in the Bible and then He gives us the power to live in those truths. God the Holy Spirit teaches us to walk in His power! Now that's walking!



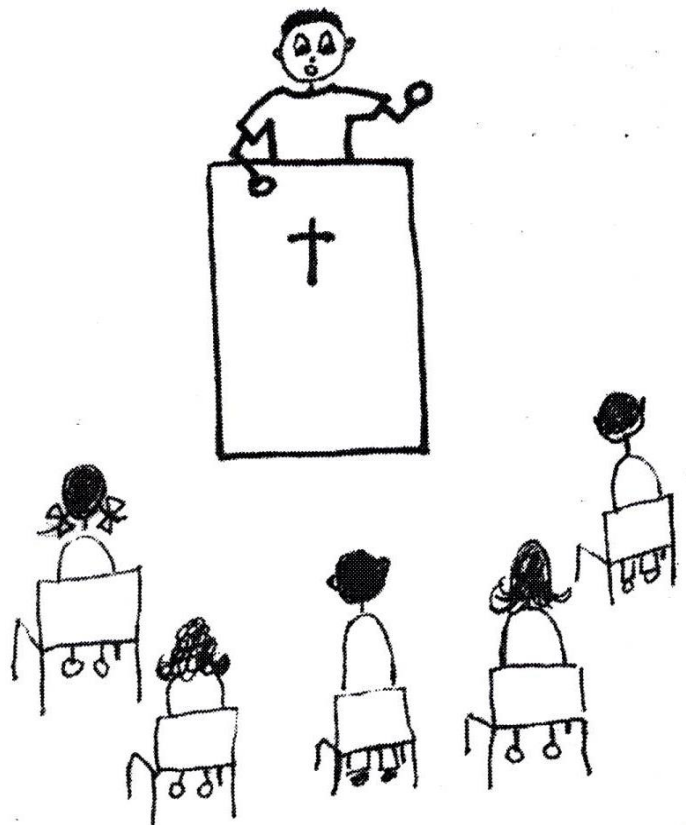
Galatians 5:16 But I say, walk by the Spirit, and you will not carry out the desire of the flesh.





We need to "hold fast to the Head" which means to be occupied with Jesus Christ. It means to fill up our minds with the thinking of Christ. Sometimes we get too occupied with ourselves and our ways; we aren't occupied with Jesus Christ and His ways. That's just what Satan wants! He wants us to be confused and not live in the peace we have with the Lord. Satan wasn't occupied with Christ; he was occupied with himself! Ugly! We need to think the opposite of Satan. We need to get to the place of being occupied with Christ, having His thoughts!

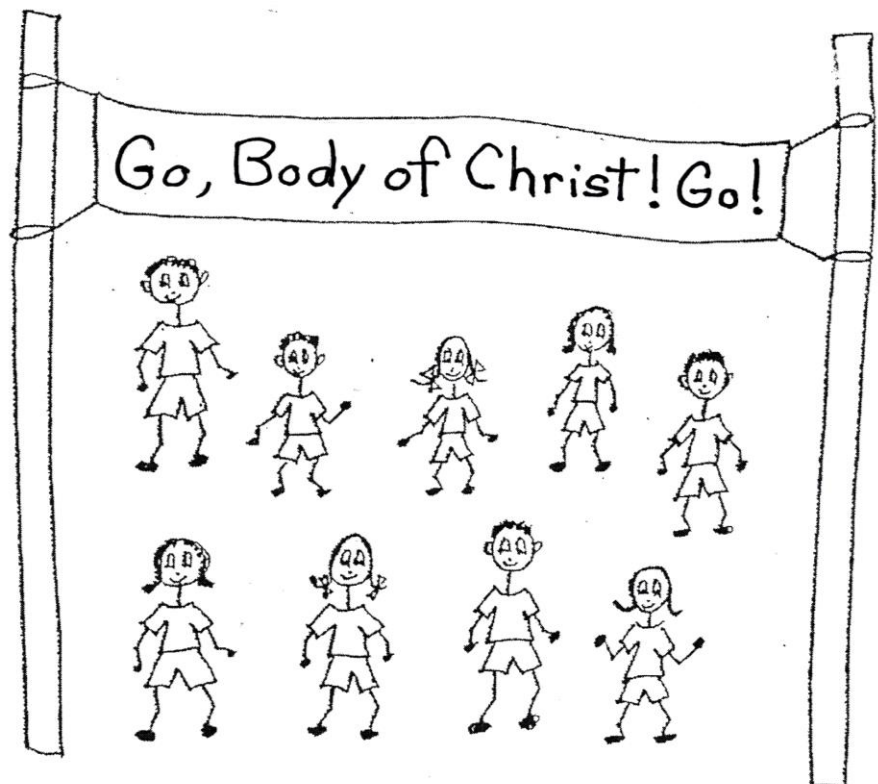
Colossians 2:18-19 Let no one keep defrauding you of your prize by delighting in self-abasement and the worship of the angels, taking his stand on visions he has seen, inflated without cause by his fleshly mind, and not holding fast to the Head, from Whom the entire body, being supplied and held together by the joints and ligaments, grows with a growth which is from God.





Jesus Christ wants a special, personal relationship or involvement with you and me! On the cross He did all the work so that can happen. That relationship begins when we believe in Jesus Christ as our Lord and Savior. At that time, we are placed in union with the Lord Jesus Christ! We are with Him forever in His royal family - the body of Christ - the Church! This is a very special relationship and family! We are all to look to Christ as our Head and see how He treats us in grace and love. Through the power of the Holy Spirit we are to treat each other in grace and love!

John 15:13-15 Greater love has no one than this, that one lay down his life for his friends. You are My friends if you do what I command you. No longer do I call you slaves, for the slave does not know what his master is doing; but I have called you friends for all things that I have heard from My Father I have made known to you.





Ephesians 5:23 For the husband is the head of the wife, as Christ also is the head of the church, He Himself being the Savior of the body.

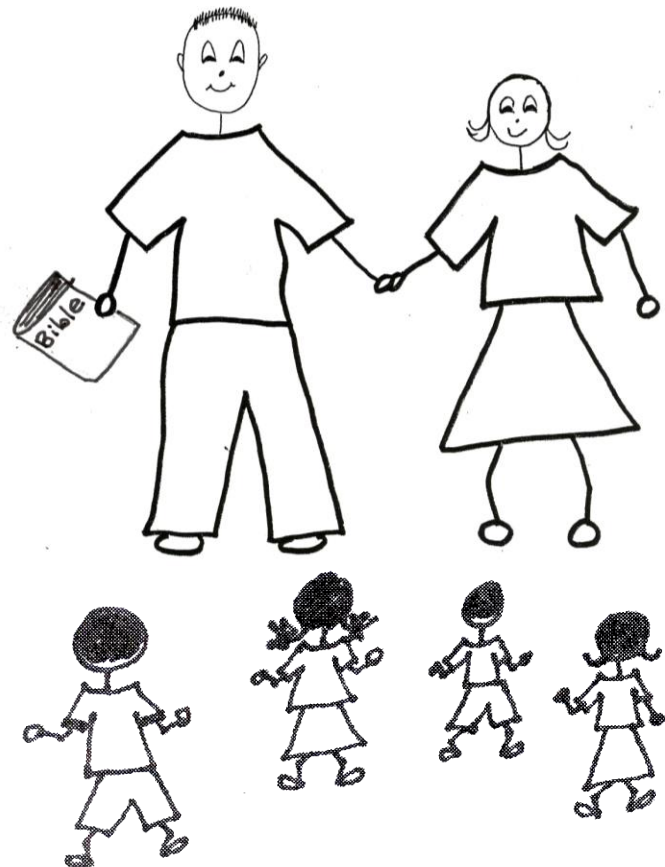
As Christ is the Head of the church, the husband is the head of the family. He has been appointed by God to be the top authority in the family. He is to operate in love in supplying the needs of the wife and the children. The wife is to respect her husband and be his helpmate. The children are to obey the parents, for that is the will of God. When the husband loves the wife as Christ loves the Church, and the wife respects the husband and is subject to him as to the Lord, the children will have a good environment at home to grow in God's love, grace and word.

Ephesians 5:25-26 Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ also loved the church and gave Himself up for her, so that He might sanctify her, having cleansed her by the washing of water with the word.

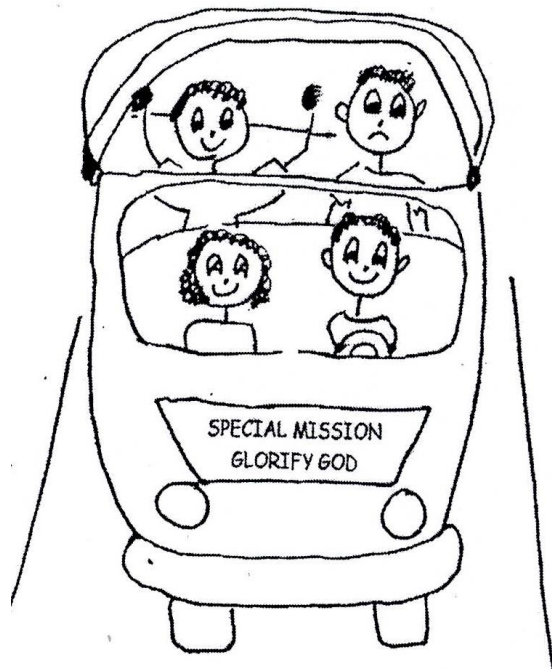
Ephesians 5:22 Wives, be subject to your own husbands, as to the Lord.

Ephesians 6:1-3 Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right. HONOR YOUR FATHER AND MOTHER (which is the first commandment with a promise), SO THAT IT MAY BE WELL WITH YOU, AND THAT YOU MAY LIVE LONG ON THE EARTH.

Page 7



God has given us a family. He has designed it for our physical and spiritual growth. Sometimes our family is not following the design God has in mind. That is when we each need to step back and see what we are doing to hinder the family. To be on the right track, we have to cooperate with God the Holy Spirit; through the power of the Spirit, we need to learn the word of God and use it! We need to develop our relationships in the family based on the love of God, His grace, His word and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit.



2 Corinthians 13:14 The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit, be with you all.

Ephesians 5:1-2 Therefore be imitators of God, as beloved children; and walk in love, just as Christ also loved you and gave Himself up for us, an offering and a sacrifice to God as a fragrant aroma.

We are to live in the body of Christ the same way, based on the love of God, His grace, His word and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit. We are all to serve each other! The way in which we serve will be different for each one of us. It will be a special blessing from God for us to give to someone; and the way someone serves us will be a special blessing for us! Everyone in the body of Christ gets served! God knows what we each need and when we need it. He takes care of all of our needs! He puts believers in our lives who will encourage us. There is great comfort in knowing and experiencing the companionship of believers who have the thinking of Christ. Let's live life to the fullest in God's grace, love, word and by the power of God the Holy Spirit! Let's live to show the glory of our Head, the Lord Jesus Christ!

Ephesians 3:20-21 Now to Him who is able to do far more abundantly beyond all that we ask or think, according to the power that works within us, to Him be the glory in the church and in Christ Jesus to all generation forever and ever. Amen



Body of Christ

The Head



The Parts

