

# MEMBERS OF ONE ANOTHER **Romans 12:1-5** *B. Turner*

## *We Need One Another!*

### Introduction:

- 1. When Jesus carried John in the Spirit from Patmos to the Spiritual Realm**
    - a. He told John to Write the Things that he saw...
    - b. But He did not tell John to write a Protest Letter to the Emperor of Rome
    - c. Nor to the Roman Senate of Rome—But to the 7 Churches of Christ in Asia
  - 2. When the H.S. Inspired Paul to write the book of Romans...**
    - a. Explaining in Depth WHY Jesus died on a Cross...
    - b. He Did Not Write it to the Caesar or Senate in Rome,
    - c. It Was Written to the Church of Christ — the Pillar and Ground of Truth!
  - 3. The Church of Christ is the Body of Christ—the Family of God**
    - a. The Eternal Kingdom that Will NEVER Be Destroyed
    - b. We Gather in the Name of the Lord By Divine Appointment—Because He is Worthy!
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## **I. WE NEED ONE ANOTHER (Romans 12:3-5)**

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### **A. NO INDIVIDUAL CHRISTIAN CAN FUNCTION EFFECTIVELY IN ISOLATION FROM THE BODY OF CHRIST**

#### **—>WE FIND SEVERAL BIBLICAL METAPHORS OF THE KINGDOM**

- 1. MARITAL—The Church is the Bride of Christ (Ephesians 5:23)**
- 2. RELATIONAL—Children of God Adopted into Family of God (Rom 8:16-17)**
- 3. AGRICULTURAL—You are God's Field (1 Corinthians 3:9a)**
  - a) In OT Israel was a referred to as the Vineyard of the Lord
  - b) As a Vine or a Fig Tree—The Owner of the Vineyard is God
  - c) **Jesus said: "I am the vine, you are the branches." (Jn 15:5)**
- 4. ARCHITECTURAL—God's Building (1 Corinthians 3:9–11)**
  - a) A Spiritual Temple—Built up on the foundation of Jesus Christ
- 5. ANATOMICAL—The Body of Christ (1 Corinthians 12:12, 27)**
  - a) A Spiritual Body of Christ—made up of His Faithful People

### **B. AS MEMBERS OF ONE ANOTHER—WE NEED EACH OTHER**

- 1. As the Body of Christ—We Are Members of One Another (Rom 12:4–5)**
- 2. There is INTERDEPENDENCE Within the Body**

#### **Even Though So Many different Functions Take Place**

- a) The Body Needs Oxygen, Blood, Immune System, Breathing, Processing Energy, Breaking Down Protein, Glucose, Balancing PH
  - b) All of these Functions are Working Simultaneously to keep the Body Healthy
- 3. But Sometimes This INTERDEPENDENCE Stops Working...**
    - a) **ILLUSTRATION: Auto-Immune Disease**

- (1) Auto-immune Disease happens when the Body cannot differentiate between Friend of Foe
- (2) The Body senses an attack on itself—but misinterprets the source of Intrusion and actually attacks itself—it's own immune system.
- (3) The Body Attacks itself as if it were the Enemy—  
Fighting A Civil War against Itself!

**b) This Happens in Relationships, Families, or even Marriages, when a husband and wife are deceived into thinking they are the enemy**

- (1) Even in Congregations, when members attack one another as the enemy—  
—while the REAL Enemy Satan is Delighting in the Division!

**C. THE BODY IS MADE UP OF MANY DIFFERENT MEMBERS WORKING TOGETHER FOR THE LORD!**

1. **Look at what we do! (Romans 12:10-15)**
2. **We Need Each Other—to Be Effective Members of the Body of Christ**

**II. TO ENCOURAGE ONE ANOTHER (1 Corinthians 12:12-19)**

**A. NO CHRISTIAN SHOULD FEEL LESS IMPORTANT THAN ANOTHER**

**1. EXAMPLE: Larry Crabb tells the story of when he was a young man he was asked to lead a public prayer in front of the worship assembly.**

- a) It was his first time and was very nervous, but knew it was expected of Him and wanted to do his very best.
- b) But he had a speech impediment that made him even more nervous
- c) He stumbled through the prayer, making several mistakes.
- d) Finally he blurted out the word Amen and sat down totally embarrassed & defeated.
- e) He remembered staring at the floor, too embarrassed to look around, and vowing to never, ever speak or pray in public ever again.
- f) When the service was over, he made a beeline to the door, not wanting to see or talk to anyone, especially an elder who wanted to straighten out the mistaken theology of his prayer.
- g) But he wasn't fast enough—an older Christian named Jim Dunbar intercepted him just before he got to the door.
- h) He put his arm around the young man and cleared his throat to talk.
- i) Larry remembered thinking to himself, "Here it comes. Oh well, just endure it and then get to the car." He then listened as this older man began to speak.
- j) "Larry," he said, "there's one thing I want you to know. Whatever you do for the Lord, I'm behind you one thousand percent." Then he walked away.
- k) Larry said, even 20 years later I can repeat word for word what he said, and tears well up in his eyes just remembering it. (Crabb, Encouragement, p.27)

**2. "Even as I write these words, my eyes fill with tears. Those words were Life Words. They had Power. They reached deep into my being. My resolve never again to speak publicly weakens instantly."**

- a) **Isn't this what Paul is instructing us to do?... (Romans 12:10)**
- b) **"Be kindly affectionate to one another with brotherly love, in honor giving preference to one another; (Romans 12:10)**

## **B. THIS IS A PERSON WHO FEELS EXCLUDED FROM THE BODY**

### **1. But in This Body Dynamic—All Members Are Equally Important**

- a) “Even as every cell in a human body is linked by a common source code DNA, yet the parts of our body (members) look different, are treated differently, work differently, and accomplish different purposes. Even so, there is great diversity in the body of Jesus Christ, both in appearance and function, yet each member has a common source and a common goal.” (David Guzik)

### **2. We Are the Children of God that Make up the Family of God**

—This is the Unity of the Body (1 Cor. 12:12)

### **3. (1 Cor. 12:15–18) In the design, we see the wisdom of the Designer:**

**everybody has something; but nobody has everything.**

- a) **Adam Clarke:** “We could call one eye, because of his acute observation of men and things, and penetration into cases of conscience and Divine mysteries. Another hand, from his laborious exertions in the Church. Another foot, from his industrious travels to spread abroad the knowledge of Christ crucified: and so of others.” (Clarke)

## **C. WE OFTEN STRUGGLE WITH DYSFUNCTIONAL THINKING ERRORS**

— **Self-Defeating Beliefs that Destroy Our Peace**

### **1. Mary and Martha Both Loved the Lord—no question...**

- a) But they showed their love of the Lord in different ways...
- b) Mary wanted to LEARN from Jesus,
- c) Her sister Martha wanted to SERVE Jesus

### **2. But Martha became resentful toward her sister because Martha thought Mary should be serving in the same role she was serving (Luke 10:38–42)**

- a) It was Mary Who Poured Out an Alabaster Bottle of Ointment on Jesus Feet
- b) It was Martha who openly confessed that Jesus was the Messiah, the Son of God, who will raise the dead in the Last Day!

### **3. They Both Loved the Lord—and didn’t need to compete against each other**

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## **III. TO HONOR ONE ANOTHER (1 Corinthians 12:20-24)**

### **A. NO CHRISTIAN SHOULD FEEL MORE IMPORTANT THAN ANOTHER**

#### **1. This is a Blind Spot that Paul Addresses Multiple Times (Philippians 2:3-4)**

2. *“If I consider you above me and you consider me above you, then a marvelous thing happens: we have a community where everyone is looked up to, and no one is looked down on.” (David Guzik)*

### **B. THIS IS A PERSON WHO THINKS THEY DON’T NEED ANYONE ELSE**

#### **1. That Their Opinions, Presence, Importance is Greater than Everyone Else!**

- a) This Was a Problem in the Church in Corinth—arguing over who had greatest gifts...
- b) Paul Had to Tell Them—None of You Have the Greatest Gift!

—>Because the Greatest Gift is Love! (1 Corinthians 13:1-3)

#### **2. The Problem with Focusing on Our Gifts—is Were Not Focusing on God**

## **C. THIS IS ALSO A PERSON WHO THINKS THEIR NEEDS ARE MORE IMPORTANT THAN EVERYONE ELSE**

### **1. Their Needs Outweigh the Needs of Everyone Else**

**So This Person Will Not Honor Others Needs—Only Their Own**

- a) Usually This Person Gets Offended and Leaves
- b) Because To This Person: **What is Right is What Meets My Needs**  
**What is Wrong is What Doesn't Meet My Needs**

### **2. When a Person is Trapped by Fear, Anxiety, Anger, Depression—it is often a Result of Hyper-Focusing On Self, rather than God or Others**

- a) Not Always... Some are suffering from Grief and Loss...
- b) But When a Person is Trapped for years—it is a Self Focus
- c) It's Not Just the Arrogant who are Self-Focused—  
—It's also the Depressed, the Fearful, the Angry
- d) It's Not Healthy For the Person, or Their Marriage, or Their Family  
Or the Family of God—the Body of Christ

### **3. The More You Focus on Yourself—The More Depressed You Will Get**

- a) It's Guaranteed to Make You Miserable!

### **4. This is Why Jesus said: He who seeks to save their life will lose it, but he who loses his life for My sake will find it.**

- a) If You Only Focus on Your Needs and Your Wants, Your Desires  
Then Nothing is Left but an Empty Void of Unmet Needs...
- b) choked by the Worries, and Riches, and Pleasures of Life.

### **5. Consider the Psychological Future of Selfishness vs. Selflessness**

(JAMES BALES) “Those who are selfish and who do only that which pleases their fancy, and who will not exert themselves for some high principle, will find that their range of dislikes will increase and their range of likes will decrease. As time goes on, life becomes more and more filled with disagreeable things until the selfish life becomes the doomed life. He who does things for Christ's sake is responding to something higher than his personal inclinations. This leads to a steady increase in one's range of interests, likes, and success and the fuller life is the reward of the giving up of a selfish life. No discovery of modern psychology is, in my opinion, so important as its scientific proof of the necessity of self-sacrifice or discipline to self-realization and happiness.”

- a) **“If what you believe does not reflect Truth,  
then what you feel does not reflect reality” (Neil Anderson)**
- b) **“We create the unrest within ourselves because we are striving to be or to have what we think others have—always seeking after an invisible, unattainable state of happiness which is always out of our grasp.” (William Backus)**
- c) Remember The Way You Think Influences the Way You Feel  
As a man thinks, so is he (Prov 23:7)  
Hope deferred makes the heart sick, but a desire is fulfilled is a tree of life (13:12)

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## IV. TO SYMPATHIZE WITH ONE ANOTHER (1 Cor. 12:25-27)

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### A. NO CHRISTIAN SHOULD FEEL ALONE (v.25)

1. We Are Different Members—but We Make Up a Family of God
2. So When One Member is Hurting—We All are Hurting With them
3. When one is Rejoicing—We Rejoice with them!

### B. WE ARE TO SYMPATHIZE WITH ONE ANOTHER (v.26)

1. I Had a terrible tooth ache a few weeks ago...
  - a) It Wasn't Just My Tooth Hurting—it made my whole head ache!
  - b) Because My Body is Affected by One Tooth!
2. But That One Tooth Almost Kept Me Home that Sunday
  - a) Which Means One Tooth was going to Affect the entire Congregation!
3. But I Had Sympathy for my Brothers :)
  - a) and Didn't Want to Ask one of them to whip up a last minute sermon with no notice!

### C. TO SYMPATHIZE WITH ONE ANOTHER

#### —WE MUST TRY TO UNDERSTAND ONE ANOTHER

1. We All Have a Role, a Duty, a Part to Play in the Kingdom
2. No One is MORE Important
3. No One is LESS Important
4. We Need Each Other!

### CONCLUSION:

1. We share the same hope from God,
  - a) Same love from God,
  - b) Same Gift of grace,
  - c) Baptized into the same Spirit

### 2. Ephesians 4:1–6

I, therefore, the prisoner of the Lord, beseech you to walk worthy of the calling with which you were called, <sup>2</sup>with all lowliness and gentleness, with longsuffering, bearing with one another in love, <sup>3</sup>endeavoring to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. <sup>4</sup>*There is* one body and one Spirit, just as you were called in one hope of your calling; <sup>5</sup>one Lord, one faith, one baptism; <sup>6</sup>one God and Father of all, who *is* above all, and through all, and in you all.