

Daily devotional, July 16, 2021 Let's All do Our Part

“Now you are the body of Christ, and each one of you is a part of it.” 1 Corinthians 12:27 (NIV)

In an average combustion car engine there are roughly five hundred separate parts. Each part has its shape, purpose and responsibility. If any one part fails, the engine's overall performance is affected and depending on the part, the effect on the performance can be either minor or disastrous. It is estimated that the human body has 37.2 trillion cells inside it. That is certainly a few more parts than we find in a car engine, but the same principle of form, function and responsibility apply. If cells begin to mutate, and the body fails to produce enough of one type of cell or another, the body pays a price and illnesses such as cancer can follow.

A church, a fellowship of believers, functions in much the same way regardless of the number of parts. Each member has its own shape, purpose and responsibility. How we all work together affects the performance of the church. The end result of the performance of the Church being: To spread the good news of the Gospel and the love of Jesus throughout the world, starting with our church community and reaching beyond. If any member of the church does not live up to their responsibility, the performance of the church is compromised, and the spreading of the Gospel becomes impacted. That may feel like a weighty responsibility when we think about it that way. Our task is to be involved in the spreading of the Gospel because if we sit on the sidelines and malfunction, the church loses its impact.

Paul gives us some great insight as to how God asks us to function as the Church. In 1 Corinthians 12:13, Paul writes, “For we were all baptized by one Spirit into one body-whether Jews or Greeks, slave or free-and we were all given the one Spirit to drink.” In case you haven't noticed, we are all different. We have different interests, skills, aptitudes and abilities; but what Paul is saying here is that even though we are aware of all of our differences, it really doesn't matter. We can be all be used for God's glory in the body of Christ.

What great news! No matter what your talent level might be, no matter what your abilities are, no matter the level of your giftedness, God wants you to be an active, vital and vibrant member of His church. Because, similar similar to the parts of an engine or one of the trillions of cells in the human body, we all have a shape, a purpose and responsibility to carry out God's business.

A great truth about the church that Jesus continues to build on is that it is not confined to four walls. Often times the most emotional and powerful moments of sharing the Gospel and making disciples, happen when people are simply walking through life together. Wherever we go, we must always remember that the shape, purpose and responsibility of each individual members of the church is not restricted by the church walls. In fact, Matthew 28:19 tells us quite the opposite: “...go and make disciples of all nations.” We cannot do that while still sitting in the pew, no matter how good the Wi-Fi connection. Jesus wants us to connect with other members and to do the disciple making together, no matter what your gifting may be. We all have a part in it!

Prayer: Oh Lord, as we work together to build your Kingdom, let us be the light that leads the world to you. Grant us the patience to work together. Bring us all together as a family. Let us work together with understanding and compassion in our hearts. Let us not be rude or arrogant towards one another, as we light the way to your heavenly kingdom. To the glory of Your holy name, Amen.