

## **Daily Devotional, November 9, 2021 We All Play a Part in Building Christ's Body**

***From him the whole body, joined and held together by every supporting ligament, grows, and builds itself up in love, as each part does its work. Ephesians 4:16 (NIV)***

In this verse from Ephesians, Paul stresses that every part of the body has a function to perform. When all of the parts are working in harmony, the body grows & unites in love. Likewise, the Church is formed by the unity of its members under Christ who is the head, and just as the human body grows until its maturity by every part achieving its proper function, so does the Church grow by the appropriate exercise of its spiritual gifts in benefit to one another. *Every member must be a participating member of the body with duties and roles with regard to the growth of the whole.*

The Church is the people of God, not a brick and mortar structure. It is the Body of Christ joined and held together as each part does its work. In Greek, the word "church" literally means "called out." The Church as a community of believers called out of the world, "joined and held together by every supporting ligament, grows and builds itself up in love, as each part does its work."

Hope has been ministering to our body of believers and many others outside of our membership through our on-line worship services for more than 1½ years now. To make this happen, we took to heart Ephesians 4:16, forming a union under Christ; the worship committee designed vapor trapping booths and shields to protect congregants from the spread of moisture from worship leaders' singing; because of this, the music leaders continue to nourish our souls with beautiful music; the audio sound team and new volunteer camera operators, learned how to link to our Facebook page to set up our live broadcast over the internet, and the members of each of these ministries work together in support of our worship and outreach efforts. The livestream worship was made possible because of our commitment to work together. Just as the human body is a collection of many different limbs, cells, and organs, each with a unique function and purpose, so do each of us, with our different gifts and abilities, function in unity for a common purpose.

Many thanks to our committees, members, and volunteers who have connected together to support these and so many other functions of the body of Christ. It is a blessing to see people face to face, masks on and socially distanced, as needed, worshipping together in the same space. As COVID-19 and its variants continue to linger, Hope continues to minister. As we gather together for worship, we physically and spiritually connect while maintaining a safe distance. In a time of uncertainty, our livestream worship is fostering a community of shared responsibilities and commitment, and Hope continues to hold steady, growing and maturing, appropriately implementing the many gifts and graces of individuals for the benefit of the whole.

If you have not been utilizing your gifts in support of the body of Christ, maybe for fear of being in community with others or possibly due to health concerns such as an immune-compromised condition, I pray that you might look for other ways to support and be a part of our Hope community once again. There are many remote and behind the scenes ways that your special gifts can be utilized to be in community with others and to give back to God from the unique and special gifts that you have been gifted with, ie: serving on council, sitting on committees, outreach food deliveries, teaching opportunities and so much more. God has gifted us all in so many ways. Maybe its time to consider how you might become more connected once again to Christ's body.

***Prayer: Lord, we lift up committees, elders, worship teams, members, and staff to you. Help our church body to walk in a manner worthy of the calling You have given us. Grant them the indwelling of Your Holy Spirit and let them contribute and operate in wisdom as they carry out their ministries and responsibilities. In Christ's body, Amen.***