

HOW THE CHURCH IS TO FUNCTION

1 Corinthians 12:12-31

Romans 12:3-6

Introduction: The human body is unique and God designed. The Church, also, is unique and God designed. The human body has many outside differences but the inside is the same, so it is with the Church. The human body sometimes gets out of order as some of its parts quit working or sickness affects parts of the body thus causing the entire body to not function properly. The same is with the Church. The outward appearance of the local church may appear to be normal but things may not as they should be on the inside. Paul the Apostle writes to a Church and shows them how they are to function.

I. THE CHURCH AND THE HUMAN BODY COMPARED

1. What better way to clarify the function of the Church than to compare the various members of the human body to the various functions within the Church.
2. Consider that the human body is self-governing.
 - The body acts and reacts automatically.
 - The brain sends messages to control the action of the body.
 - To walk, to pick up something, to speak, to hear, to see, etc.
3. There is no competition among the body's many members.
 - The hand does not do the work of the foot.
 - The eye does not hear nor the ear see.
 - Each member of the body does what it was designed by God to do.

II. EACH MEMBER OF THE BODY WORKS SMOOTHLY WITH THE OTHER MEMBERS

1. The coordination of the various members of the human body provide what the brain is telling the body to do and such should be the Church with every member working smoothly in harmony with each other doing what God wants the Church to do.
2. Look at the foot and the hand:
 - Both are part of the same body.
 - Both are important members and one would be handicapped without the other.
 - Each one's function is different and to have one do the function of the other is difficult if not impossible.
 - The body functions best when each member does what God designed it to do.
3. What about the ear, the eye or the nose?
 - The ear hears.
 - The eye sees.
 - The nose senses odors, it "smells."
 - Neither can do what the other does. Each was designed to do its own specific thing.

4. The same truths apply to God's Church.
 - All members must work together, for the same purpose but each member using his/her own specific gift as designed and given by God.
 - Trying to do someone else's work is like the hand trying to walk or the eye trying to hear.
 - Church members are to do their own God-given thing and assist one another as each does what he/she is supposed to do.

III. AS GOD ASSIGNED THE BODY MEMBERS THEIR FUNCTIONS, SO HE HAS ASSIGNED EACH CHURCH MEMBER HIS/HER FUNCTION

1. The Church belongs to God and He designed every aspect of it.
 - God equips and places every member in His Church where they can best serve Him.
 - Each member must serve where God places him/her regardless of their own ideas.
2. Every person has their own individual talents and abilities that God often uses.
 - These natural talents can be developed, and abilities improved.
 - God also gives each member a special gift to be used exactly how God desires.
 - No one Church member is to "do it all."
3. The "smallest" member is necessary.
 - Some Church members are frail, feeble and require more attention than others.
 - Sometimes strong members become sick or in some other way need help.
 - Whether "small," frail, feeble, sick, or timid, each member is important.

IV. CHURCH MEMBERS ARE TO TAKE CARE OF ONE ANOTHER (*Galatians 6:2*)

1. All Christians have burdens, some light, some heavy.
 - The strong are to help the weak.
2. All Christians suffer at one time or another.
 - If the human body has an injury to it anywhere, the entire body suffers.
 - The entire Church is affected when a single Church member suffers.
 - Those who are well are to be of comfort and help to that one who is suffering.
3. When one Church member is honored in any way, all others should rejoice also.
 - There is no place for jealousy in God's Church.
 - One is blessed just to be a part of God's Church in the first place.

CONCLUSION:

1. If every member of your Church were just like you, what kind of a Church would it be?
2. God has so designed the Church that every single Church member is indispensable. Every single Church member is needed in his/her God assigned place or else the entire Church body suffers. Are YOU doing what God has assigned and gifted you to be doing?