

THE CHURCH - THE BODY OF CHRIST

Colossians 1:18

Introduction: The story is told about a little newsboy at a train station who was usually treated very rudely by the passengers, however on one occasion one of the passengers treated the little boy very politely and was very kind to him. After the passenger got on the train and the train left, the little boy looked up at a nearby passenger who had seen and heard the polite passenger and the little boy asked, "Was that Jesus?"

The Church is to act and serve in ways that make people see Jesus in what is done. For 33 years Jesus was God in a fleshly body and used that body to do good. You remember all the wonderful things Jesus did for all the people. On Pentecost the spirit of Christ came back to earth to dwell in His Church. The Church (us) is Christ in the flesh. Without the Church, the world will not see Christ. You have heard the little saying, "What WOULD Jesus Do?" Well, here's one better, "What DID Jesus Do?" We don't always know what Jesus would do in a given situation as we are prone to interject our OWN ideas. So, think back to the life of Jesus in a similar situation and ask yourself, "What did Jesus do?" and go do likewise.

I. WE (THE CHURCH) ARE TO RESPOND TO CHRIST

1. Jesus Christ is the head of the Body - the Church.
2. It is said that our brain controls our bodies:
 - our voluntary actions
 - our involuntary actions
3. Damage to the body can cause inactivity:
 - paralyzed from the neck down
 - disease causing the body to waste away
 - growing old creates inactivity and slowing
 - the mind is alive and well but the body doesn't function properly
4. A great tragedy within Christ's Church is that the HEAD is alive and well but the body - the Church is SICK.

II. WE (THE CHURCH) ARE TO BE UNITED IN CHRIST

1. "Togetherness" is the Church.
 - Soldiers make an Army, not A soldier.
 - Bride and Groom make a marriage, not A bride or A groom.
 - Relatives make a family, not A relative
 - Bricks and blocks make a building, not A brick or A block.

2. Our bodies have many parts.
 - Just think about the many parts of your body and how important each part is.
 - Think about how much harmony, working together, unity there is in simply eating.
 - There is no jealousy among the many parts of our body, all work together in harmony when well.

3. Christ's Church has many members.
 - There are those who are visible and those who are not seen but all are vital.
 - God gives gifts to those members and each member is given something different but it is to be used in harmony with the gifts of the other members. Like the members of our bodies, many, but working together in harmony.

III. WE (THE CHURCH) ARE TO MINISTER FOR CHRIST

1. There is a story that goes way back to World War One that in a little town in France, a statue of Jesus was hit by one of many bombs and the blast blew the hands of the figure of Jesus off. Later there was a sign that had been placed at the foot of the statue of Jesus which read: "I have no hands but your hands."

2. We are to minister to one another.
 - If a part of our body itches, another part scratches that itchy place. Thus one part of our body helps the other. If we sprain an ankle the other leg automatically takes more weight, thus we "limp" around putting more on one side than the other until the injured side heals. Our body adjusts for weaknesses and loss.
 - *1 Corinthians 12:26*

3. We don't need to be spending all our time rubbing, petting ourselves. We are to be reaching out to others. WHAT DID JESUS DO?"

CONCLUSION:

1. In any given situation you find yourself in, think: WHAT DID JESUS DO?

2. We, the Church, are to do what Jesus did. He said that we, the church, would do even greater things than He did. There are more of us!

3. We, the Church, are Jesus Christ' living body of today, let's act like it.