

Many – Form the Body of Christ

September 17, 2017 – Romans 12:4-5

“Just as each of us has one body with many members, and these members do not all have the same function, so in Christ we who are many form one body, and each member belongs to all the others.”

Can an arm live when it is detached from the body? If I cut my arm off (And I have no desire to do so) it would shrivel up and die. Can any part of our body live when it is detached from the body? Perhaps if a part of the body is detached for a short period of time, some doctor may have the technology to reconnect the severed part, and by God’s Grace it may recover.

When anyone severs themselves from the body of Christians and do not regularly join in public worship and hear the Word of God and enjoy the benefit of the Lord’s Supper, sooner or later their faith will shrivel up and die.

How often have you heard someone say: “I do not need to go to Church to be in heaven!” When this is said, it is often said with a bold attitude. And it is true, we do not need to join together in public Worship to be in heaven. Jesus has already paid the price in FULL for sin on the cross of Calvary, and Heaven is our home.

But even though we do not *need* to go to church to be in heaven, in the same way, God did not need to die for us and save us from sin and hell. God could have simply let us go to hell. But God did not abandon us, instead God died for us on the cross of Calvary and took away all our sin with His Holy Precious Blood. (Acts 20:28)

And so why not worship in Public services with fellow Christians?

Some other comments that you may have heard include the following: I Worship at home by myself! I find the worship service boring!! I do not get anything out of the service!!! But the fact is: God tells us that as Christians, we are a unit. You will not be the only person in heaven. I will not be the only person in heaven.

Revelation tells us that there will be a multitude that the Apostle John could not count. (Rev. 7:9-17) To avoid Public Worship means to become all the more easy prey for Satan and the sinful world. When we pray the Lord’s Prayer, it begins with the word “OUR”. (Matt. 6:9) God tells us in Genesis, that when he created the woman for the man God said, “It is not good for man to be ALONE!” As Christians it is not good for us to be alone, rather God has put us together for a purpose.

- To Serve Him, to serve one another and to serve others in the World.
- To Proclaim the Word of God to others so that they also may know Jesus as their Savior from sin. (Matt. 28:18-20)

God even gives us some direction in His Word on how we can serve Him and others in the following verses:

Romans 12:4-8

Vs. 4 – Just as each of us has one body with many members, and these members do not all have the same function,

Vs. 5 – so in Christ we who are many form one body, and each member belongs to all the others.

Vs. 6 – We have different gifts according to the grace given us. If a man’s gift is prophesying, let him use it in proportion to his faith.

Vs. 7 – If it is servicing, let him serve; if it is teaching, let him teach;

Vs. 8 – if it is encouraging, let him encourage; if it is contributing to the needs of others, let him give generously; if it is leadership, let him govern diligently; if it is showing **mercy**, let him do it cheerfully.

AMEN