

These are written that you may . . .

# ***BELIEVE!***

Believers Church • Box 33233 • Denver, CO 80233-0233 • USA • Issue 193

## **The Church Is The Body Of Christ**

All who acknowledge the Lord Jesus Christ as their Lord belong to His Body, which is the Church.

ROMANS 10:9 NKJ

9 that if you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved.

COLOSSIANS 1:24 NKJ

24 . . . the afflictions of Christ, for the sake of His body, which is the church,

1 CORINTHIANS 12:27 NKJ

27 Now you are the body of Christ, and members individually.

EPHESIANS 5:30 NKJ

30 For we are members of His body, of His flesh and of His bones.

The Church, or Body of Christ, is composed of many members. Not every member has the same function or calling. God did not create or call each member to do the same thing.

### **Others Are Important**

We should recognize other parts of the Body of Christ and not criticize them. God has not given to any of us full and complete understanding of everything. Because we do not know what God has called others to do, we cannot judge whether they are being faithful to do God's will.

We should assist, encourage, bless, and pray for other members of the Body — just as we would members of our physical body.

### **Different Tasks**

A big temptation is to assume everyone should be doing what God has called *us* to do. God has made it

clear to us, shown us the need and importance — so that we will do what He has called us to do.

But, we must always remember that we are not the head of the Body of Christ — we are only members who take our orders from the Head.

Because God loves everyone and desires to help them, He calls people to minister to them on a level and in a way that they will receive. Because people will never all be the same, ministers of God will always be different also.

### **Different Gifts**

ROMANS 12:4-8 NKJ

4 For as we have many members in one body, but all the members do not have the same function,  
5 so we, being many, are one body in Christ, and individually *members of one another*.

6 Having then *gifts differing* according to the grace that is given to us, let us use them: if prophecy, let us prophesy in proportion to our faith;

7 or ministry, let us use it in our ministering; he who teaches, in teaching;

8 he who exhorts, in exhortation; he who gives, with liberality; he who leads, with diligence; he who shows mercy, with cheerfulness.

### **Many Members**

1 CORINTHIANS 12:12,14,17-27 NKJ

12 For as the body is one and has many members, but all the members of that one body, being many, are one body, so also is Christ.

14 For in fact the body is not one member but many.  
17 If the whole body were an eye, where would be the hearing? If the whole were hearing, where would be the smelling?

18 But now *God has set the members*, each one of them, in the body just *as He pleased*.

19 And if they were all one member, where would

the body be?

20 But now indeed there are many members, yet one body.

21 And the eye cannot say to the hand, "I have no need of you"; nor again the head to the feet, "I have no need of you."

22 No, much rather, *those members* of the body which seem to be weaker *are necessary*.

23 And those members of the body which we think to be less honorable, on these we bestow greater honor; and our unpresentable parts have greater modesty, 24 but our presentable parts have no need. But God composed the body, having given greater honor to that part which lacks it,

25 that there should be no schism in the body, but that the members should have the same care for one another.

26 And *if one member suffers, all the members suffer* with it; or if one member is honored, all the members rejoice with it.

27 Now you are the body of Christ, and members individually.

### Each Member Does Its Share

EPHESIANS 4:11-16 NKJ

11 And He Himself gave some to be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, and some pastors and teachers,

12 for the equipping of the saints for the work of ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ,

13 till we all come to the unity of the faith and the knowledge of the Son of God, to a perfect man, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ;

14 that we should no longer be children, tossed to and fro and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the trickery of men, in the cunning craftiness by which they lie in wait to deceive,

15 but, speaking the truth in love, may grow up in all things into Him who is the head — Christ —

16 from whom the whole body, joined and knit together by what every joint supplies, according to the effective working by which *every part does its share*, causes growth of the body for the edifying of itself in love.

### Do Not Judge Others

ROMANS 14:4 NKJ

4 Who are you to judge another's servant? To his own master he stands or falls. Indeed, he will be made to stand, for God is able to make him stand.

Most likely, we will not understand, or agree with, all that other members of the Body of Christ may do. That is because our assignment is different, and we do not have all the knowledge that our Head,

the Lord Jesus Christ, does.

ROMANS 14:10,13 NKJ

10 But why do you judge your brother? Or why do you show contempt for your brother? For we shall all stand before the judgment seat of Christ.

13 Therefore let us not judge one another anymore, but rather resolve this, not to put a stumbling block or a cause to fall in our brother's way.

### Division

The devil wants to bring division and strife to the Body of Christ — over anything — in any possible way. We must resist the devil and walk with God in peace and love.

MARK 3:24 NKJ

24 "If a kingdom is divided against itself, that kingdom cannot stand.

1 CORINTHIANS 3:3 NKJ

3 for you are still carnal. For where there are envy, strife, and divisions among you, are you not carnal and behaving like mere men?

JUDE 1:19 NKJ

19 These are sensual persons, who cause divisions, not having the Spirit.

TITUS 3:10 NKJ

10 Reject a divisive man after the first and second admonition,

1 CORINTHIANS 1:10,13 NKJ

10 Now I plead with you, brethren, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that you all speak the same thing, and that there be no divisions among you, but that you be perfectly joined together in the same mind and in the same judgment.

13 Is Christ divided? . . .

### Love As Christ

When we criticize others who claim to be following Jesus, we show our spiritual immaturity. Jesus commanded us to love with an unselfish, self-sacrificing love. He said people would know those who were His followers because they would display His kind of love.

JOHN 13:34-35 NKJ

34 "A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another; as I have loved you, that you also love one another.

35 "By this all will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another." □