Each Part Working Properly Series: (Church People)

NLT Ephesians 4:16; He (Holy Spirit) makes the whole body fit together perfectly. As each part does its own special work, it (part) helps the other parts grow; so that the whole body is healthy and growing and full of Love.

It’s unfortunate, but it’s not just the body of Christ who attend church. There are another community of people who are referred to as “church people.” The “church people” have been around as long as the body of Christ. The Apostle Paul warns his young spiritual son and fellow service member of the body of Christ about “church people.” He had to warn Timothy as a young newly installed Pastor of the Ephesian church. The Ephesian church was in its infancy, but it was growing rapidly. Paul wanted to make sure the inexperienced young Pastor new about the “church people.” He knew Timothy knew who the body of Christ was but not the “church people.”

Even in churches today these “church people” are not identified properly. They have been referred to as the body of Christ because they attend church. However, they are not members of the body of Christ. They just go to church and that’s why they are referred to as “church people.” Paul had to identify them for Pastor Timothy, because “church people” can be harmful to the body of Christ if they go unidentified. In Paul’s letter to Pastor Timothy, he calls out the “church people” for all to see who they are! AMPC 2 Timothy 3:1-5; But understand this, that in the last days will come (set in) perilous times of great stress and trouble (hard to deal with and hard to bear). For people (church people) will be lovers of self and (utterly) self-centered, lovers of money and aroused by inordinate (greedy) desire for wealth, proud and arrogant and contemptuous boasters. They will be abusive (blasphemous, scoffing), disobedient to parents, ungrateful, unholy, and profane. (They will be) without natural (human) affection (callous and inhuman), relentless (admitting of no truce or appeasement); (they will be) slanderers (false accusers, troublemakers), intemperate and loose in morals and conduct, uncontrolled and fierce, haters of good. (They will be) treacherous (betrayers), rash, (and) inflated with self-conceit. (They will be) lovers of sensual pleasures and vain amusement more than and rather than lovers of God. NLT 2 Timothy 3:5; They will act religious, but they will reject the power that could make them godly.

What is the major difference between the body of Christ and “church people?” The Apostle answers that question in this very same letter in verse five. “They act religious, but they will reject the power that could make them godly.” Why do “church people” resemble members of the body of Christ? Because “church people” know act to religious or in other words, know how to act like their godly when they really aren’t. What happened to the “church people?” How did they become just “church people” people who just go to church. The Apostle Paul explains that too.

He had to upbraid the Galatians for choosing to just become “church people.” NLT Galatians 3:1-3; Oh, foolish Galatians! Who has cast an evil spell on YOU? For the meaning of Jesus Christ’s death was made as clear to YOU as if YOU had seen a picture of his death on the cross. Let me ask YOU this one question. Did YOU receive the Holy Spirit by obeying the law of Moses? Of course not! YOU received the Spirit because YOU believed the message YOU heard about Christ. How foolish can YOU be? After starting your Christian lives in the Spirit, why are YOU now trying to become perfect by your own human effort?

Again, this is the problem with “church people” some of them started off like the body of Christ. They started their Christian life in the Spirit with the Holy Spirit. However, they made the same mistake as the Galatians. They tried to live their Chrisitan life by human effort. The Lord Jesus Christ, the Head of the Church knew we couldn’t live our new life in the Spirit without the Holy Spirit. AMPC John 14:18; I will not leave YOU as orphans (comfortless, desolate, bereaved, forlorn, helpless). AMPC John 16:13; But when He, the Spirit of Truth (the Truth-giving Spirit) comes, He will guide YOU into all the Truth (the whole, full Truth). For He will not speak His Own message (on His Own authority); But He will speak whatever He hears) from the Father; He will give the message that has been given to Him), and He will announce and declare to YOU the things that are to come (that will happen in the future).

The Holy Spirit is our Guide to the Spirit realm. We have never lived in the Spirit realm before, this is a new place. So, we need the Holy Spirit to help us navigate this new way of life. Even in the natural realm we have tour guides that help people to navigate places or areas that have never seen or been. The word guide comes from the Greek word hodegeo (hod-ayg-eh-o). It means lead on one’s way; to give guidance. In addition, the Merriam and Webster dictionary define guide as to give advice and instruction to someone regarding the course or process to be followed. Some synonyms for the word guide are: accompany, coach, lead, teach, mentor, inform, counsel, tutor, train, shepherd, enlighten, chaperone, and walk through.

Paul explained this spiritual truth in his letter to the Corinthians. NLT 1 Corinthians 2:9-16; No eye has seen, no ear has heard, and no mind has imagined what God has prepared for those who Love Him. But it was to us that God revealed these things by His Spirit. For His Spirit searches out everything and shows us God’s deep secrets. No one can know a person’s thoughts except that person’s own spirit, and no one can know God’s Thoughts except God’s Own Spirit. And we have received God’s Spirit (not the world’s spirit), so we can know the wonderful things God has freely given us. When we tell YOU these things, we do not use words that come from human wisdom (“church people”). Instead, we speak words given to us by the Spirit, using the Spirit’s Words to explain spiritual truths. But people (“church people”) who aren’t spiritual can’t receive these truths from God’s Spirit. It all sounds foolish to them, and they can’t understand it, for only those who (the body of Christ) are spiritual can understand what the Spirit means. Those who are spiritual can evaluate all things, but they themselves cannot be evaluated by others. For, who can know the Lord’s Thoughts? Who knows enough to teach Him?

Paul admonishes us that we need to allow the Holy Spirit to be our Guide in this life in the Spirit so we can actually become godly, and not just have a form of godliness. In other words, just acting godly, but not really godly. AMPC Galatians 5:25; If we live by the (Holy) Spirit, let us also walk by the Spirit. (If by the Holy Spirit we have our life in God, let us go forward walking in line, our conduct controlled by the Spirit). The Holy Spirit is in control of the conduct of a service member of the body of Christ. The “church people” are controlled by their own flesh and the devil and this is why they act ungodly.

Paul makes the distinction between following the desires of the sinful nature versus following the Holy Spirit as your Guide. NLT Galatians 5: 19-23; When YOU follow the desires of your sinful nature, the results are very clear, sexual immorality, impurity, lustful pleasures, idolatry, sorcery, hostility, quarreling, jealousy, outbursts of anger, selfish ambition, dissension, division, envy, drunkenness, wild parties, and other sins like these. Let me tell YOU again, as I have before, that anyone living that sort of life will not inherit the Kingdom of God. But the Holy Spirit produces this kind of fruit in our lives, Love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control. There is no law against these things.

As the body of Christ, we have the Mind of Christ because we yield to and obey His Spirit living in us. NLT Galatians 5:24-26; Those who belong to Christ Jesus have nailed the passions and desires of their sinful nature to His Cross and crucified them there. Since we are living by the Spirit, let us follow the Spirit’s leading (Guide) in every part of our lives. Let us not become conceited or provoke one another or be jealous of one another (“church people”).

The scientific linked concept is Neurogenesis. Science has realized that we are wired for Love. Not surprising at all because God is our Father or Source. We are born of God, Who is Love! ESV 1 John 4:7-8; Beloved, let us Love one another, for love is from God, and whoever Loves has been born of God and knows God. Anyone who does not Love does not know God, because God is Love. We are wired for Love means all our mental circuitry is wired only for the positive, and we have a natural optimism bias wired into us. Neurogenesis is the process God has built within us to have new nerve cells birthed daily in us for our mental benefit. We can see this principle in God’s Word. Lamentations 3:22-23; The Lord’s mercies are new every morning.

Science has almost caught up with the Bible. Scientists finally understand that the brain is not hardwired but neuroplastic. This is referred to as neuroplasticity. Our brain can change and regrow, it can be renewed and restored (Romans 12:1-2) This is good news (the Gospel) that we don’t have to live with our unrenewed minds anymore. We can renew our minds and have the Mind of Christ. This the only way, we as service members of the body of Christ, will be able to work properly and do our own special work. And be able to help the other parts of the body grow, be healthy, and full of Love.