

## Interdependence in the Body of Christ

One of the most important things for Christians to remember is that God has designed a system for all His children. This system requires that we benefit from one another. If selfishness resides in us to that measure there will be suffering of others in our close vicinity. The fact is that believers are more in need of one another than unbelievers because the world, the flesh and the Devil are against the progression of our purpose with God. For this reason the Word calls us to give special preference to each other in order to minimize the suffering that is inevitable for those interested in faithfully serving God. To experience all the Blessings that God has in store for us we must be willing to gather regularly with other believers and to address the various spiritual and material needs that arise. Believers should in fact be looking for these opportunities to serve the weak 2Cr 12:9. At some point we will all be caught in states of weakness; God provides these situations so we will know that we all need each other and that we are not independent of one another. The Laodicean Believers had adopted an attitude that many of us can develop as individuals. These believers had once been interested in serving God but came to the point where they had what they thought they needed and lacked the proper motivation to go to higher places with God. The idea is that some believers will go part of the distance with God and as soon as we have seen all we want to see we try to find a comfortable spot to sit it out the rest of the game when in fact we have not realized the actual gains that God has intended for us Rev 3:17-18.

We can feel weak but God calls us to get up and continue our advance so that we will gain new strength Is 40:31. This new strength is always just beyond the hill in front of us: so, there is the need to make it over the hill where we will find the necessary refreshment to take us to the next objective God has for us. We need to consider God's dealings with Job and not to lose heart because of the present distress Heb 12:2-3. If we continue with God He will surely be gracious with us so we can gain new strength. If we do not diligently help other believers when the opportunity permits we are only hurting ourselves and we will be feeling the pain sooner or later; God will make sure of this. The Scripture says to admonish or encourage each other while it is still called today Heb 3:13. This is a command that can not be fulfilled unless we are among the brethren also having a genuine concern for them.

Jesus in a beautiful display of humility girded Himself for service and proceeded to wash the disciples' feet Jhn 13:5-17. This is symbolic in nature and represents our care for each other. It represents our willingness to free one another of the defilements that we will inevitably come in contact with in our daily lives. Peter at first refused this from the Lord and Jesus made it clear that if we are to refuse this from Him then the relationship is of no value. Obviously, we are not to refuse this from any brother or sister; often we can be blind regarding our own faults so God uses other believers to bring them to our attention. The fact is that there are many things that the scripture commands of us that only can be carried out if we maintain close relationships with other believers. The point is that God wants us to grow to the point where we develop true love for each other such to the extent that we are willing to sacrifice ourselves to God and His children Rom 12:1-

8. When our love becomes real it will not go unnoticed by the world, and many who are around us will want to be a part of what God is doing in our lives Mat 5:14. Another part of scripture that makes it clear that we need each other is 1Co 12:12-26. This passage shows us how important we are to each other; not even Christ i.e. [the Head] can say He has no need of the feet. Just think of yourself if you had no legs, or for that matter any other part of your body. Some of us have problems with our bodies so it is easy to relate to the fact that for us to be successful as Christians we are going to learn to have a greater appreciation for each other. When we do this, we will have a greater respect for God also. It seems that sometimes the Body needs to suffer a great deal in order for the various parts to have an elevated love and respect for each other.

The following verses are just a few of the many that express some of these things that can only be done or realized by maintaining close ties with a Church Body.

Jhn 21:15-17

Rom 1:12; 12:9-13; 15:14

1Cor 1:10

Gal 5:13-14

Eph 4:1-6; 4:15-16

Phil 2:1-5

1 Thes 5:14

Tts 2:3-4

Hbr 10:24-25

1Pet 1:22; 3:8-12