

“ Connected to Each Other ”

“Speaking the truth in love, we must grow up in every way into him who is the head, into Christ, from whom the whole body, joined and knit together by every ligament with which it is equipped, as each part is working properly, promotes the body’s growth in building itself up in love...So then, putting away falsehood, let all of us speak the truth to our neighbors, for we are members of one another...Let no evil talk come out of your mouths, but only what is useful for building up, as there is need, so that your words may give grace to those who hear.”
(Ephesians 4: 15,16, 25,29)

Paul the Apostle continues to point the church toward Christ as he reminds them that they make up the “body of Christ” to others, especially the brothers and sisters that claim Christ as Lord of their lives. Look around this world today and you may not see that solidarity even in the local church much less between denominations.

We are told that we share “one Spirit”, but many act as if they have many different spirits or are not paying attention to the one that was given to them by God. Jesus healed many people that were possessed by demon spirits and they were made whole. They were made new. And we are told that when we receive the “Holy Spirit” we are a “new creation”.

So why is the church in such turmoil ? Are we too focused on “having it our way” as the commercials would have us believe ? Do we not understand what it means to “be connected” or as Paul says, “members of one another” ?

In manufacturing, if all the parts are designed well and assembled properly, then the final product will pass the final “quality inspection” and will function as it was made to do. But if just one part is left out or is not functioning as it needs to do, then the product may fail or be rejected and not put into service. The other parts may still be good, but one part held up the process.

It may be time to step back and look at the whole process and not continue to “produce the same product just because it has always been done that way”. It may be time to ask ourselves where we fit in with regard to God’s plan and see if we are ready to serve as designed.

Are we serving others in love? Are we just going through the motions ? Is our assembly line in need of repair or replacement? Are we really still connected to each other in the body of Christ ?

These may be hard questions to answer or the answers may be hard to accept. God made us to be connected – to be community – to serve as one body – one healthy body – with Christ as the head of the body – so do we need to be sure we are connected to the head to function properly ?

GOD IS CALLING – ARE YOU LISTENING ?

Comment:

Thank You William for some thought provoking and prodding with this message. It is time to reassess our institutional thinking and how we as men go about building our Savior's Kingdom. If we first identify our personal Spiritual Gifts and foster a healthy and dynamic relationship with a spiritual mentor we will turn around a listless sense of obligation into an opportunity for building relationships with men struggling and in need of what Jesus can give them, Redemption and Hope for a relationship with Christ that will be permanent and lasting. We can joyfully do God's will through us and be effective because we are engaged and equipped through our spiritual gifts.

So many men today trudge about from one church function to another as a good and humble servant but never experience the fire of an inflamed Holy Spirit filling them to overflowing. Is it the program or the process that is failing our men, or is it the hearts of men themselves because they are not passionate about what they are doing and have no idea how to get there?