

within our church will determine the degree to which our church is less than what God can use to carry out His purposes.

'Sez I to myself, as I grumbled and growled, 'I'm sick of my church', and then how I scowled. The members unfriendly, the sermons too long; In fact, it seems that everything's wrong. I don't like the singing; the church - a disgrace, For signs of neglect are all over the place. I'll quit going there, and won't give a dime: I can make better use of my money and time.'

Then my conscience sez to me, sez he, "The trouble with you is, you're too blind to see That your church reflects you, whatever it be. Now come, pray, and serve cheerfully; Stop all your faultfinding and boost it up strong; You'll find you'll be happy and proud to belong. Be friendly, be willing, and sing as you work, For churches are not built by members who shirk."

2. Admit Our Limitations.

While we must each accept our responsibility within the life of the church, at the same time, we must each accept the fact that God did not intend nor equip us to do everything.

One pastor said that his church was filled with willing members - 20% were willing to work, and 80% were willing to let them.

Too often, the church suffers from members who will not do their part; but also, they can also suffer from members who will not let others do their part.

As members of the body of Christ, we can be compared to pieces in a jigsaw puzzle. Each piece has protrusions and indentations. The protrusions represent our strengths (gifts, talents, abilities), and the indentations represent our weaknesses (limitations, shortcomings, undeveloped areas). But the neat thing is that the pieces complement one another and produce a beautiful whole. Just as each piece of a puzzle is important, so each member of the body of Christ is important. Just as, when one piece is missing from the puzzle, its absence is very obvious and damages the picture, so also is the whole weakened when we are absent from the body of Christ. Just as, when each piece of a puzzle is in place, any one piece is not conspicuous but blends in to form the whole picture, so it should be in the body of Christ.

One of the things that can hinder the health and halt the growth of a church is for there to be an unwillingness to open up opportunities for folks to get involved in service. That's why the most important statistic in the life of a church is not necessarily the "nickels and noses" but the "new folks involved in ministry." When a church gives priority to leading people to become meaningfully involved in the life of their church, the "nickels and noses" will take care of themselves. Therefore, those who are already involved must recognize their limitations and allow for the involvement of others.

3. Honor One Another.

Here Paul says that we should have respect for one another because each of us is needed, whether we realize it or not. Though I may not see my heart beating, that doesn't mean that I would want to try to get along without it. We need to each honor the other for the contribution to the life of the body that they can make.

In any flesh-and-bones body, there are a variety of cells. There are nerve cells, blood cells, muscle cells, and many others, each having a distinct function. The body operates smoothly, not because the cells get together and voted on what to do, but because each one does what it was designed to do. It is the function of the head to bring all these different functions together, so that the body operates effectively as each cell gives itself to the task of functioning according to its design.

Certainly the body would not operate properly if its cells chose to go their own way. Do you know what we call a rebellion of the cells of your stomach? We call it indigestion! A revolt of your brain cells is called insanity. Any time the cells in our body don't operate properly, it means that the body is sick, that something is wrong.

Many of problems in the church today are a result of our forgetting that the church is a body with a head, Jesus Christ. He has determined that each of us is needed within the body. Therefore, what we each need to do is look to Him to show us our proper role within the church.

Every member of the body must be encouraged, and appreciated for what they can do within the life of the church. There is no contribution that is unimportant and there is no member of the body that is insignificant.

4. Be Aware of Each Other.

If you fell and severely injured your wrist, it would swell up and become very painful. The rest of your body might feel so bad about it that it would sit up all night to keep it company.

This is what Paul says the body of Christ should do. When one member hurts, all should hurt; and all should respond. If there is a place where people care, it should be the church, and if our church is going to be this kind of fellowship, it is up to each of us.

Consider the "one another" commands in the Bible:

Love one another. - John 13:34;

Be devoted to one another. - Romans 12:10;

Live in harmony with one another. - Romans 12:16;

Accept one another. - Romans 15:7;

Instruct one another. - Romans 15:14;

Serve one another. - Galatians 5:13;

Bear with one another. - Ephesians 4:2;

Be kind and compassionate to one another. - Ephesians 4:32;

Submit to one another. - Ephesians 5:21;

Admonish one another. - Colossians 3:16;

Encourage one another. - 1 Thessalonians 5:11;

Spur one another on toward love and good deeds. - Hebrews 10:24.

None of these commands is given to any special person to fulfill (like the pastor), but to each of us. In fact, as we study the Scriptures, we find that the pastor isn't hired by the church to do its work, but rather, he is called by God to equip the saints so they might carry out the ministry (Ephesians 4:11-15).

Notice that God not only calls us to pursue individual Christ-likeness (Romans 8:29), but He also calls us to pursue congregational Christ-likeness by making sure we are doing our part within the body of Christ. Also note what Paul said will happen if we are involved in the life of the church as we should be. He says that we will "no longer be . . . tossed back and forth by the waves, and blown here and there." This kind of assurance of God's will and direction comes to us only as we are functioning within the body of Christ as God calls us to.

Conclusion

Since this is the case, how does one find their place of service and ministry within their church? Well, apart from the body, you cannot fully know God's will for your relationship to the body. Without the eye the hand does not know where to touch. Without the ear the rest of the body may not know when or how to respond. So I need to look and listen to see where there might be a need within my church. Now, the need does not constitute a call. The need, however, should not be ignored.

Once I am aware of needs within my church, I should then go to the Lord in prayer, consider the wisdom revealed through His Word, consider my circumstances, and seek the counsel of others within the body. What you will find is that a number of things begin to line up. What you are hearing from the Bible and prayer and circumstances and the church will begin to say the same thing. Then you can proceed with confidence.

This same procedure applies to discerning God's will for my life outside the church as well. In discerning God's will, I should pray, look to God's Word, consider my circumstances, and seek out godly counsel through my church. But if I am going to be in God's will for my life, I must understand that it is impossible to be in God's will without being involved in the way God wants me to be involved in my church. When I am not involved in my church, I am condemning myself to be "tossed back and forth by the waves, and blown here and there."

1. Seek God's guidance in joining a church.
2. Seek God's guidance in serving through your church.
3. Seek God's guidance through the wise council available in your church.

As each part of the body depends on the other parts so does the body of Christ rely upon the proper functioning of all the various parts.

In a mountain village in Europe several centuries ago, a nobleman wondered what legacy he should leave to the townspeople. At last he decided to build them a church. No one saw the complete plans for the church until it was finished. When the people gathered, they marveled at its beauty and completeness. Then someone asked, "But where are the lamps? How will they be lighted?"

The nobleman pointed to some brackets in the walls. Then he gave each family a lamp that they were to bring with them each time they came to worship. "Each time you are here the area where you are seated will be lighted," the nobleman said. "Each time you are not here, that area will be dark. This is to remind you that whenever you fail to come to church, some part of God's house will be dark."

The functionality of the church is dependent upon the dedication of the members or parts of the body. Let me use another example. Have you ever flown a kite? Ask yourself, who flew the kite? If you ask the wind it will say I did. I'm the one who lifted it up so it can fly. If you ask the paper, it will say I did. I'm what allows the wind to catch underneath and take it up into the air. The tail will say no it was me that kept it from getting out of control. The string will say that it was him that held it all together. The boy who flew the kite will say that without me, the kite couldn't fly at all. The truth is that they all had a part in flying the kite and none of them were more important or crucial than the other. They were all important and they all depended upon the other part in order to function properly.

Folks, God has placed you here in this church for a reason. You are an important part of this church and vital to the success or failure of this body of believers. Everyone depends on you to carry out your function here in this church. When you fail to do that, the whole body suffers. Use your gifts and talents right here right now in order for this body to fulfill the mission that Jesus gave to us. Let me ask you, where do you fit in?

Seek To Obey God's Calling

Evangelism Depends on You

Evangelism by definition is spreading good news to a lost and dying world. During the preparations for an evangelistic crusade in Latin America, a very poor, unshaven man came to one of the week-long Biblical counseling courses. It was unusual to see a man of this condition attending an in-depth training session. Most often, those with a better education and social standing were the ones who took an active role in this type of intensive preparation. The illiterate man attended every class, but those in leadership didn't know what to expect from him if he were called upon to do any counseling.

Several weeks later during the crusade, all of the available counselors were busy when a physician walked in to the counseling area. This shabbily dressed man immediately greeted the doctor and took him into a room for counseling. Once the counseling director discovered what had happened, he became deeply concerned. When the doctor came out, the director asked the man if he needed any help. The physician replied, "No, thank you. This fellow has helped me very much." The next day that same doctor showed up with two other colleagues and asked to see the shoeless man. By the end of the week, that illiterate man had led four doctors and their wives to Christ. This example proves to us that God needs nothing more than available servants.

The call to evangelize was given to every Christian when Jesus said "Go ye into all the world and preach the gospel." "Go Ye" means Go Me! There are no excuses for not being evangelistic. Every Christian can evangelize in some way. You can tell someone how and why you came to Christ.

One of the biggest tasks we are given is to love our neighbor. Whenever you think of the phrase "your neighborhood" do you think of that silly Sesame Street song? Or do you think of Fred Rogers asking "Won't you be my neighbor?" Now if you walk the streets nearby where you live singing that silly song you might get some feedback (not necessarily positive), but it's more likely you would get the wacky wagon called to take you away. Modern neighborhoods do not make for a whole lot of interaction – particularly during the winter months.

There's a trend with people: they drive home and pull in their garage, then get back in their car to drive somewhere with members of their family to find something to eat, and then drive home straight into the garage. If you are the typical suburban person you don't have repeated interaction with your neighbors unless you actively go seek them out. While that may seem strange, the command is to "Go Ye." Sometimes we can encounter people as we are going. But most times we must be intentional in our going. If we want God to use us, we must allow ourselves the opportunity to be used.

Church Growth depends on evangelizing. Evangelizing depends on us. Will you answer, "Here am I, Lord. Send me?"

God Bless You!

Bro. Allan

Opportunities For Service

Living out Your Spiritual Commitment . . . and Fulfilling Christ's Divine Plan

Sunday, August 19, 2018

Sunday School.....9:15 am

Morning Worship.....10:30 am

Nursery: Volunteers as needed

Ushers: ? ? ? ?, Ken Kirkpatrick, Bill Schottel, Larry McKahan

Alternate: Ken Nice

Evening Service.....6:30 pm

Wednesday, August 22

Prayer / Bible Study ...6:30 pm

Worship Team 7:30 pm

Sunday, August 26, 2018

Sunday School 9:15 am

Morning Worship.....10:30 am

Nursery: Volunteers as needed

Ushers: ? ? ? ?, Ken Nice, Fred Kerns, Don Sharp

Alternate: ? ? ? ?

Diversicare.....2:30 pm

No Evening Service....

Wednesday, August 29

Prayer / Bible Study.... 6:30 pm

Worship Team 7:30 pm

Up-Coming Events.....

August 26 — Diversicare

August 27 — Workers Meeting

September 3 — Labor Day

September 14-15 NW Disaster Relief Training

September 16-23 Week of Prayer for Missouri Missions

September 23 — SJBA Annual Meeting 4:00 pm

September 26 — See You At the Pole

GROW Team

Commit to **GROW!** **Everyone make a contact!** Invite someone to Bible Study and Worship this week. ☺

.....
Sunday Nights

We *will* have Sunday night services tonight. Please join us as we begin a new study. Don't miss it!

Wednesday Night Prayer**and Bible Study**

Prayer is such a vital part of everything a church does. Please come as we pray for the direction of our church. Hope to see you this Wednesday at 6:30 pm.

**Diversicare
Nursing Home
August 26, 2018
at 2:30 pm**

Please join us as we minister to those who can no longer attend their own churches.

**Disaster Relief Training
September 14-15, 2018**

Green Valley Baptist Church

New Member Addresses

*LeRoy and Ruth Anne Bush
3816 Terrace Avenue
St. Joseph, MO
816-273-5000*

*Al and Karen Shirley
3103 South 40th Terrace
St. Joseph, MO 64503
816-689-4147*

Address Change for:

*Jordan Lane
1701 Buckingham
St. Joseph, MO 64506
816-261-3173*

**Reuben L. South
Week of Prayer for
Missouri Missions
September 16-23**

"Everything comes from You, and we have given You only what comes from Your hand." Chronicles 29:148

For the Record-

Attendance: August 12, 2018

Sunday School.....	31
Visitors.....	3
Total.....	34
Contacts Made.....	8
Morning Worship.....	38
Sunday Night.....	7
Children's Worship	N/A
Wednesday Night	12

Financial Record:

Weekly Budget	\$ 2,286.39
Offering Received ...	\$ 4,645.09
Long Family -July...	\$ 110.00

Offering Received by Mail:

August Counting Team:

Bill Schottel and John Lewis

August Van Driver:

Mike Green
Call 232-3747 before 8 am

August Member Birthdays:

09...Dottie Wildberger
18...Don Beavers
18...Tonia Meers
22...Beverly Lewis
24...LeRoy Bush

August Anniversaries

David and Annette Schottel
August 5, 1989

LeRoy and Ruth Anne Bush
August 5, 1966

Tim and Sharon Waters
August 10, 1985

Prayer Requests ...

Karen Shirley—death of Sister
Ruth Anne Bush—healing
Linda Huff—surgery recovery
Family of Rev. A. B. Brown
June Fritchle—recovery

Sandy and Stanley Wilson
Jim and Brigida Winans
Marcia and Don Hart—blessings
Blake Conner—Swymeler's Grandson
Mike Green—back to work
Arlette Duty—strength
Sharri Duty—surgery recovery
Donna and Bill Dunn—health
Jack and Flo Conard
Peggy & Gary Fewins—Peggy's health
Gina Harr—strength
Tammy Panning, Emily Jones & Liam
Cynthia Burdick—cancer recovery
Karissa and Matt Long and family
Stephanie & Jason Terpack
Shawna Hughes—recovery
Rosella Davis—Flo Conard's sister
Mary Sharp's brother-in-law Jim
Bill Clinton—Don and Mae's son
Lisa Bowers—Jack and Flo's daughter
LoLeta Middleton—strength
Zella Davis —Doris Richardson's sister
The Waters Family Betty Campbell
George Ferbert Kevin Duty
Nellie Reynolds Ann Riddle
Don Beavers Tim Izer
Kathryn Beavers Keon McKahan
Jozy Winans Kenny Duty
Pat Means Buddy Means
Bill & Juanita Debbie Sands
Pat Puckett Curtis Conard
Brenda Burgess Roscoe Lane
Carolyn Houts
Nickolay Nazaruk, Peski 2 Church
David and Deborah Grace
Our Nation and Leaders
Our Military Service people
Today's Prayer Requests

Our Nation and our Leaders ...

Five More New Families...