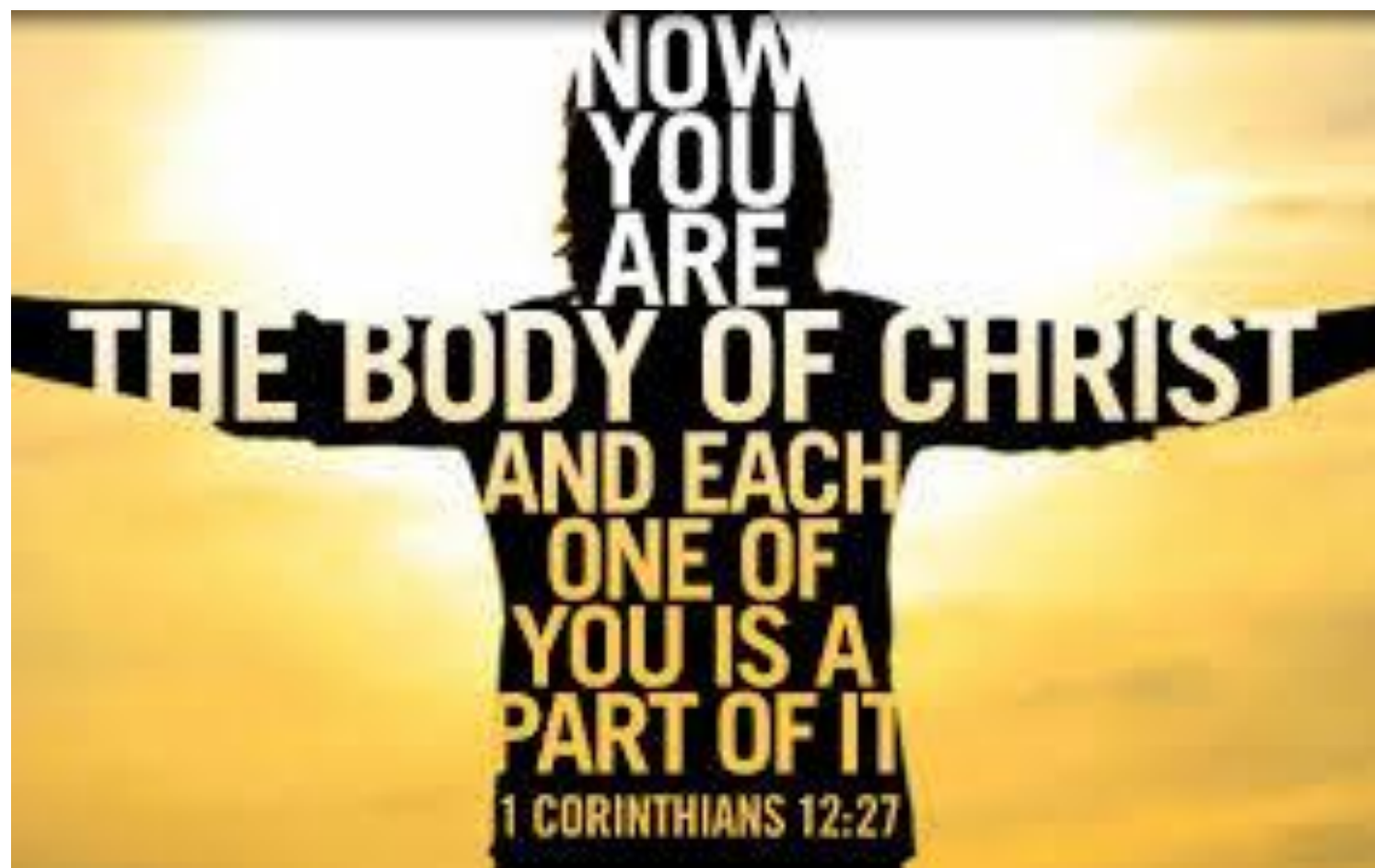


the
body of christ



1 Corinthians 12:27



Doing Life Together

(Part 3)

Ephesians 4:16

Ephesians: The Riches of His Grace

¹⁵ Rather, speaking the truth in love, we are to grow up in every way into him who is the head, into Christ, ¹⁶ from whom the whole body, joined and held together by every joint with which it is equipped, when each part is working properly, makes the body grow so that it builds itself up in love.

Ephesians 4:13-16

Ephesians: The Riches of His Grace

Intro: Recognize Jesus as the source of growth for the whole body.

¹⁶ *from whom the whole body... v. 16*

Ephesians: The Riches of His Grace

Remember Jesus said,

...I will build my church, and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it.

Matthew 16:18

Ephesians: The Riches of His Grace

Let no one disqualify you, insisting on asceticism and worship of angels, going on in detail about visions, puffed up without reason by his sensuous mind, and not holding fast to the Head, from whom the whole body, nourished and knit together through its joints and ligaments, grows with a growth that is from God.

Colossians 2:18-19

Ephesians: The Riches of His Grace

- Connect: Receive the connections God gives you with other people.

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...joined and held together by every joint with which it is equipped... v. 16

Ephesians: The Riches of His Grace

- Serve: Fulfill your function in the body and help make it grow.

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...when each part is working properly, makes the body grow... v. 16

Ephesians: The Riches of His Grace

My keyboard works quit well except for one of the keys.

I have wished many times that it would work perfectly.

It is true that there are many other keyboards that function well enough, but just one key not working makes the difference.

Sometimes it seems like the church is something like this keyboard - not all the people are working properly.

Ephesians: The Riches of His Grace

As one of them, you may say to yourself, "Well, I am only one person, I don't make or break the church."

But it does make a big difference, because a church, to be effective, needs the active involvement of every member.

So, the next time you think your efforts are not needed very much, remember my keypad and say to yourself, "I am key to God's work in this church and it will make a big difference if I don't do my part."

Ephesians: The Riches of His Grace

- Own: Realize that the body won't get built up unless you do it.

Ephesians: The Riches of His Grace

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...so that it builds itself up ... v. 16

Ephesians: The Riches of His Grace

- Love: Remember love is the atmosphere in which the body grows.

Ephesians: The Riches of His Grace

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...in love. v. 16

Ephesians: The Riches of His Grace

- Love: Remember love is the atmosphere in which the body grows.

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³⁴ A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another: just as I have loved you, you also are to love one another. ³⁵ By this all people will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another.”

John 13:34-35

Ephesians: The Riches of His Grace

His body was broken so His spiritual body could be a “...*whole body*...”, not missing any parts.



Ephesians: The Riches of His Grace

His body was ripped and torn so we, His spiritual body, could be “...*joined and held together...*”



Ephesians: The Riches of His Grace

His bones were out of joint (Psalm 22:14) so that we, His spiritual body, could be generously supplied with “...*every joint with which it is equipped...*” to connect us together.



Ephesians: The Riches of His Grace

With His body, He
did the work that *only HE could do*
so that each one of us in His spiritual body would
be “...*working properly*...” and
doing the work that *only WE can do*.

Ephesians: The Riches of His Grace