



Hebron Herald

Published by the Hebron Lane Church of Christ
Shepherdsville, KY

Volume 33 Number 4

April 2009

In the Body of Christ we need to be close enough to one another to share in the disappointments and the delights each of us experience. When a brother or sister has tragedy in his or her life, whether physical or spiritual, we should not turn a cold shoulder. When one member encounters physical or spiritual blessings, we should rejoice instead of being envious or angry.

Brethren, let us “be kindly affectionate to one another with brotherly love” because we are “members of one another” (Rom. 12:10, 5).

- Steven F. Deaton

Thus says the Lord:

“Where is the certificate of your mother’s divorce,
Whom I have put away?
Or which of My creditors is it to whom I have sold you?
For your iniquities you have sold yourselves,
And for your transgressions your mother has been put away.

- Isaiah 50:1

Then Asa Was Angry

2 Chron. 16:10

“So Abijah rested with his fathers, and they buried him in the City of David. Then Asa his son reigned in his place. In his days the land was quiet for ten years. Asa did what was good and right in the eyes of the Lord his God” (2 Chron. 14:1, 2).

King Asa began his rule in a very commendable way. He set out to destroy idolatry and lead the people to obedience under the Law (2 Chron. 14:3-5). Asa was given a prophecy by Azariah which said, in part, “The Lord is with you while you are with Him. If you seek Him, He will be found by you; but if you forsake Him, He will forsake you” (2 Chron. 15:1-8).

Asa’s faithfulness brought about a God-granted peace to the kingdom for a time (2 Chron. 15:18, 19). However, the king’s attitude changed.

In the thirty-sixth year of Asa’s rule, Baasha, king of Israel, went to war against Judah (2 Chron. 16:1). In this time of stress and crisis, king Asa turned to Benhadad, king of Syria. He quickly responded and helped Asa (2 Chron. 16:2-6). “And at that time Hanani the seer came to Asa king of Judah, and said to him: ‘Because you have relied on the king of Syria, and have not relied on the Lord your God, therefore, the army of the king of Syria has escaped from your hand’” (2 Chron. 16:7). The seer went on to remind Asa of victories which the Lord gave him and since he no longer trusted the Lord, he would have wars (2 Chron. 16:8, 9).

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Members of One Another

“The Asa was angry with the seer, and put him in prison, for he was enraged at him because of this. And Asa oppressed some of the people at that time” (2 Chron. 16:10). Instead of humbling himself before God, Asa was puffed up against Hanani, God’s servant, and turned against the people. What a great change in the heart of Asa.

The king’s actions can teach us a valuable lesson.

He was a good man in the eyes of God when he did what was right. However, when Asa rebelled and was rebuked for it, he became angry, not at himself, but at the one who exposed his sin. We can see how ridiculous it was for Asa to behave this way, yet many follow his poor example.

When a Christian is told he must stop his drinking or lose his soul, he might respond, “Keep your nose in your own business; only God can judge” (1 Pet. 4:3, 4). On hearing a lesson about modesty, some Christians automatically think the preacher is bitter, old fashioned, or out of touch with reality—or trying to bind his own standard on others (1 Tim. 2:9, 10). If elders have to take action against a couple in an unscriptural marriage, the accusation is they are now unfit to serve as leaders of God’s flock (Matt. 19:9). When a false teacher is exposed for his error, some want to blame the teacher of truth for being unkind, unloving, intolerant, or some other choice name (2 Tim. 2:16-18). The mode of operation is, kill the messenger!

This makes us think not only of Hanani, but also John who was beheaded, Stephen who was stoned, James who was killed with the sword, and Jesus who was crucified.

Nothing has really changed.

What will your reaction be when sin is brought to your attention? Will you become angry and seek to do harm—by slander, gossip, false accusations—or will you carefully examine yourself (2 Cor. 13:5)? Your eternity depends on your answer.

- Steven F. Deaton

“For as we have many members in one body, but all the members do not have the same function, so we, being many, are one body in Christ, and individually members of one another” (Rom. 12:4, 5).

When we examine our physical body it is readily apparent that it is made up of many different parts. There are two eyes, two ears, a nose, fingers, and toes, etc. All of these were given to man, by God, for a purpose. In times past medical science thought that the tonsils were useless, but now they understand tonsils help to fight off infections. Every part has a function whether we realize it or not.

From the illustration of the human body in Romans 12:4, Paul proceeds to apply the principles to the Body of Christ in verse 5. There are many members of the spiritual body; some of us are eyes, some are elbows, some heels, but we all have a function. Not all of us do the same thing, but we do complement one another.

God, in His divine wisdom, designed our bodies so that they individual parts help to support and sustain each other. The heart pumps blood to the brain, which, in turn, signals the heart to pump blood. Similarly, one member of the Body of Christ has the ability to set up a Bible study while another has the knack for teaching one. One of us may be especially good at making visitors to our services feel welcome. Another might be talented at visiting “shut-ins” and helping them in their time of need.

This is God’s design. He realized that no single person is good at everything, so He brings us together, in part, to help strengthen and complete the Body. Thus, being mutually dependent on each other, we are “members of one another.” With the foregoing in mind, let us be determined to use our “gifts” to the full (Rom. 12:6-9).

Later in Romans 12, Paul writes, “Rejoice with those who rejoice, and weep with those who weep.” It is our duty as members of one another to share in each others’ triumphs and sorrows. In the human body, when one member, such as a finger, foot, or back is in pain, all members suffer. When one member feels pleasure, such as in a foot massage, all members benefit.