

Mercy and the Strength of the Body

The Body of Christ is a true work in progress. We are the builders and helpers of this Body to bring to a true reality the heart cry of our Lord Jesus as we allow the Holy Spirit to do His work through us. We seem to assume many things about ourselves in our place in God's work, but as we will read in scripture we can zero in on a good foundation. The goal here is to encourage everyone the great blessing of participation, and to have a formula that fits our unique callings so we can start to increase participation in all the ways possible.

1 Peter 2:10 ESV

Once you were not a people, but now you are God's people; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy.

(Note the mercy word)

1 Peter 1:22 KJB

Seeing ye have purified your souls in obeying the truth through the Spirit unto unfeigned love of the brethren, see that ye love one another with a pure heart fervently:

1 John 5: 1-4 Berean

1 Everyone who believes that Jesus is the Christ has been born of God, and everyone who loves the Father also loves those born of Him.

2 By this we know that we love the children of God: when we love God and keep His commandments.

3 For this is the love of God, that we keep His commandments. And His commandments are not burdensome,

4 because everyone born of God overcomes the world. And this is the victory that has overcome the world: our faith.

1 John 3:11 KJB

For this is the message that ye heard from the beginning, that we should love one another.

John 13:34 KJB

A new commandment I give unto you, That ye love one another; as I have loved you, that ye also love one another.

ESV

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.

So what does this look like? Here is great start.

Acts 2: 42-47

The multitude of believers was one in heart and soul. No one claimed that any of his possessions was his own, but they shared everything they owned.

33 With great power the apostles continued to give their testimony about the resurrection of the Lord Jesus. And abundant grace was upon them all.

34 There were no needy ones among them, because those who owned lands or houses would sell their property, bring the proceeds from the sales,

35 and lay them at the apostles' feet for distribution to anyone as he had need.

Note when we read these words, what goes in our heads? ...do we go to the extremes and say, "well, that different time under different grace?" Not sure how many people are assuming they lived in a compound. They actually sold all the surplus they didn't need and made that available for work of the Body and the Apostles missions. Nobody lacked.

This is why I like to say we should love one another dearly. It is important, however, to operate in Wisdom knowing that to love each other the way Jesus loves us-His disciples takes a little step of faith. First to believe He loved us first and modeled it perfectly, then gave His grace to us to carry it out. Most people when reading scriptures immediately go the extremes and write off some things that are too lofty. Jesus addressed this problem when he gave new covenant commandments: it was told of you not to kill, and everyone listening was

clinging to the extreme thinking: "Well I am no murderer", Jesus knew it and when on say, "but I tell you whoever hates their brother commits murder"...."

And we all know the rest, and there are so many other examples. So remember, it is easy to lean to the extreme and close the heart to the subtleties of how the Spirit likes to operate. This a common narrative throughout our Masters teaching.

So we can be rich in prayers, helps, encouragement, even listening skills, but unless we make the first move of making ourselves available and creating an avenue for the Holy Spirit to work, then we won't experience the full blessing we have offer. Every one is precious, how I long to see a Body in Love on fire totally connected with each other. Now that we operate in a Zoom space we should be even more bold, but acting again in wisdom.

I have had to learn to give, it was a process, but I have narrowed it to down to a formula.

Set a budget and find the surplus that over budget, try giving that to Lord by asking Him to bring to you fertile soil to sew into. God's says expect nothing back from people, but expect a great return from Him in this life and the life come...it's a double BLESSING. Once a believer gets an understanding of how well this works, they can't help but to lean into it more and more.

James 2: 12-14 Berean

12 Speak and act as those who are going to be judged by the law that gives freedom.

13 For judgment without mercy will be shown to anyone who has not been merciful. Mercy triumphs over judgment.

14 What good is it, my brothers, if someone claims to have faith, but has no deeds? Can such faith save him?

15 Suppose a brother or sister is without clothes and daily food.

16 If one of you tells him, "Go in peace; stay warm and well fed," but does not provide for his physical needs, what good is that?

17 So too, faith by itself, if it does not result in action, is dead.

Always remember just one other body member to pray with or be there for gives extra power in agreeing. 2=10x.

One great way to start connecting is to hear the prayer requests and reach out to someone to be an encouragement, as Spirit leads.

Brotherly kindness is a narrative throughout the new testament.

I wanted to mention the opportunity we have as a Body. We are stronger together. I believe we will see the day soon where our dear Pastor can go full time and bring his anointed message out to so many more hurting hungry saints needing a place where they can feel safe and feel the Love of Jesus via this Body has to offer. That day is coming