

Jerusalem's Growth-Key #5: E SERVED BY E SERVING

By God's design, the work of our physical and His spiritual body must be divided and shared for perpetuity. As congregations grow, so do their needs and workload. As the congregation in Jerusalem (Acts 6:1-6) grew, needs kept arising and more workers were needed in special ways. They maintained unity and growth through how members met their needs. If a congregation doesn't divide, share, and even specialize in its labor, it will limit itself to a size wherein only a handful of people whose capabilities to serve are maxed out when other work is to be done. At that point, evangelism suffers, and souls are no longer saved. Based on Acts 6, let's examine...

I. Implications of Delegation and Division of Labor:

- A. 1 Cor. 12:14-21, Rom.12:4 _____
- B. Acts 6:1-6 _____
- C. Rom.12:4-8; 1 Cor.12:14-21 _____
- D. Some tasks don't require everyone. _____

II. Implications of Our Attitudes and Perspectives:

- A. 1 Pet. 4:10, 1 Cor.12:15-17, Eph.4:16, Matt.25:14-30 _____
- B. 1 Cor.12:21-25, Rom.12:10 _____
- C. Acts 7-8 _____
- D. Mat.18:15; Gal.6:1, 1 Cor.13:7 _____

III. Implications of Available Work:

- A. Opportunities to serve are A A _____.
- B. Consider the workload for this congregation.
- C. Collectively and individually, it's our work to do.

Classic Illustration: "There was an important job to be done and *Everybody* was asked to do it. *Anybody* could have done it. *Nobody* did it. *Somebody* got angry about that because it was *Everybody*'s job. *Everybody* thought *Anybody* could do it, but *Nobody* realized that *Everybody* blamed *Somebody*. But still, *Nobody* did it. Consequently, it wound up that *Nobody* told *Anybody*, so *Everybody* blamed *Somebody*. But still, *Nobody* did it."

Conclusion: As a member of the body, our manner of work within this congregation must maintain the members' needs while facilitating growth.

FUNCTION FOLLOWS FORM

(THE FUNCTION OF EACH MEMBER HELPS THE BODY SUCCEED.)

Paul teaches (Eph.4:11-16) about the great diversity of talents that exist among the whole body of Christ. The Ephesians would realize that within the congregation there was a multiplicity of talent that would help to perpetuate the teachings of Christ into the world around them. God has given some the talent of *“apostles, prophets, evangelists, pastors, and teachers for the equipping of the saints for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ.”* (Eph. 4:11-12) It is necessary then that we equip ourselves for the task before us. WE ALL desire to grow spiritually and numerically. We must then stress the importance of showing our support in various methods of congregational cooperation. Please note the following two points.

I. THE BODY HAS MANY MEMBERS!

The obvious point of Paul of that like the physical body has many members which make the whole, so does the church. (I Cor. 12:12-14; Rom. 12:4-5). Varied roles of leadership and service should not be viewed as having lesser importance than another. Each individual with a talent/ability in a particular area will be the one to complete the task. It is a practical necessity to view the whole church body, with its individual members, as working together to fulfill the obligations set before us. But when a member does not function according to his/her ability, the whole body suffers.

II EVERY FUNCTION IS CRUCIAL!

There is not a single person in the body of Christ who is without the ability to fulfill some specific, important role. Even when work appears to be menial and lowly, it is needed. There is no place for a low-self-image among the members of the body of Christ. Metaphorically, you may not be an eye, or an ear, or an arm, or a hand, but you are STILL part ‘the body.’ You may be a leg, or a foot, or part of the neck, or wrist, or chest, or even a thumb, a fingernail, or a strand of hair, etc. **What matters is BEING PART OF THE BODY and SERVING in your role.** Your part is important! (But you may wonder what your part is. Please visit and review each lesson in our previous Winter-Cass series titled YOUR SPIRITUAL GIFTS, spotlighted on our page:

<https://vimeo.com/showcase/6593933>

We need to be aware of different ways we can serve. Of course, we must ALL encourage each other to develop our abilities and have a sense of direction in how we will serve God with the talents and opportunities He’s blessed us with. Together we can succeed!

‘USE ME, O LORD’ -In commitment to Your highest calling for me-
-In submitting the talents You gave me to Your service- -To welcome & use Your aid to enhance effectiveness- -& ultimately to succeed in continual Evangelism-

<https://vimeo.com/showcase/8235897>