



devotion_members of one another

“so we, being many, are one body in Christ, and individually members of one another.”

Romans 12:5 NKJV

We are one body made up of many different parts, but each of us is vitally connected to one another. God’s word says we are *“individually members of one another.”* The NLT version says *“we all belong to each other”* and the AMPC version says *“individually we are parts one of another [mutually dependent on one another].”*

Our gifts have a context and that context is “one another.” In the world, my gifts revolve around me. I am in the spotlight and the beneficiary of my gifts is me. But it is very different in God’s kingdom. He gave us gifts that are to be used to benefit others, and in serving one another, we all benefit because we are members of one another.

There is an illustration of heaven and hell that is very apt here. In both realms, there are people with bowls of food and very long spoons, longer than a man’s arm. In hell all the people are starving because they are trying to feed themselves, but in heaven, everyone is happy and satisfied, because each one is feeding his neighbour. So it is with our gifts and lives. Jesus said we must lose our lives to find them. I believe He is speaking here about living for Him and one another, instead of for ourselves. The world’s way is selfish and self-centred, but the kingdom’s is selfless and others-focused, and this way results in a state of blessedness and true happiness (see Matthew 5:2-12).

Think on this

Do you recognise that you are a part of Christ’s body and that we belong to one another? Are you following His kingdom way of serving one another, or are you using your gifts to benefit yourself alone?

Prayer

Father, help us to see that we are united with one another in your body. Help us to reflect heaven on earth, by following your ways of loving and serving one another. May the world recognise who you are by the way we treat one another. May the beauty of your kingdom be seen by the way we put one another first and use our God given gifts to serve one another. May your will be done and your kingdom come among us, **in Jesus’ name. Amen.**