

Passage to Ponder

(1 Corinthians 12:12-20)

For as the body is one and has many members, but all the members of that one body, being many, are one body, so also is Christ. For by one Spirit we were all baptized into one body whether Jews or Greeks, whether slaves or free and have all been made to drink into one Spirit. For in fact the body is not one member but many. If the foot should say, "Because I am not a hand, I am not of the body," is it therefore not of the body? And if the ear should say, "Because I am not an eye, I am not of the body," is it therefore not of the body? If the whole body were an eye, where would be the hearing? If the whole were hearing, where would be the smelling? But now God has set the members, each one of them, in the body just as He pleased. And if they were all one member, where would the body be? But now indeed there are many members, yet one body.

The Apostle Paul in this passage illustrates to the believers in Corinth what we see exemplified in the birth and growth of their church in today's Bible study of Acts 18:1-17. From the example in Acts and this illustration we can see the importance of the church corporately and the importance of each believer individually.

First we see the importance of the church corporately in Paul's illustration. He calls us the body of Christ! When Jesus was on earth He was the Word made flesh, this means that Jesus was the physical agent with which the Father worked to reveal Himself and the gospel. After Jesus death, resurrection and ascension He's no longer walking around physically, He's now everywhere spiritually.

As a result God has established another physical agent to reveal Himself and the gospel on the earth, it's the body of Christ, the church. As Jesus was lead by His Father, were lead by Jesus who is our head. With this understanding we should have the same focus and function which Jesus did when He was on earth. We should be focused on the Father for guidance, direction and we should relay on the Holy Spirit for our power. Regarding our function in the world we should seek to do those things which glorify and please the Father.

Secondly Paul shows us in this illustration the importance of each believer individually. Were told that as a body has many parts each with a different function and an important role, so the church has many people each with a unique gift and an important calling. As each of us discovers our gifts and functions faithfully in our calling being lead by the head well like the believers in Acts 18:1-17. Well excel to edify the body and be effective in reaching our community.