The Body, The Battle, and The Armor

What does the Body look like? How does it work? What is its function? What should we watch out for?

1 Cor. 10

16 The cup of blessing which we are blessing, is it not the communion [fellowship, joint participation] of the blood of Christ? The bread which we are breaking, is it not the communion of the body of Christ?

17 For we, who are many, are one bread, one body, for we all are partaking of the one bread.

1 Cor. 12: start at verse 12 -

- 4 Now there are apportionments of graces, yet the same spirit,
- 5 and there are apportionments of services, and the same Lord,
- 6 and there are apportionments of operations, yet the same God Who is operating all in all.
- 7 Now to each one is being given the manifestation of the spirit, with a view to expedience.
- 8 For to one, indeed, through the spirit, is being given the word of wisdom, yet to another the word of knowledge, according to the same spirit
- 9 yet to another faith, by the same spirit, yet to another the graces of healing, by the one spirit,
- 10 yet to another operations of powerful deeds, yet to another prophecy, yet to another discrimination of spirits, yet to another species of languages, yet to another translation of languages.
- 11 Now all these one and the same spirit is operating, apportioning to each his own, according as He is intending.
- 12 For even as the body is one and has many members, yet all the members of the one body, being many, are one body, thus also is the Christ.
- 13 For in one spirit also we all are baptized into one body, whether Jews or Greeks, whether slaves or free, and all are made to imbibe one spirit.
- 14 For the body also is not one member, but many.

...

- 18 Yet now God placed the members, each one of them, in the body according as He wills.
- 19 Now if it were all one member, where were the body?
- 20 Yet now there are, indeed, many members, yet one body.
- 21 Yet the eye can not say to the hand, "I have no need of you," or, again, the head to the feet, "I have no need of you."
- 22 Nay, much rather, those members of the body supposed to be inherently weaker are necessary,
- 23 and which we suppose to be a more dishonored part of the body, these we are investing with more exceeding honor, and our indecent members have more exceeding respectability.
- 24 Now our respectable members have no need, but God blends the body together, giving to that which is deficient more exceeding honor,
- 25 that there may be no schism in the body, but the members may be mutually solicitous for one another.

- 26 And whether one member is suffering, all the members are sympathizing, or one member is being esteemed, all the members are rejoicing with it.
- 27 Now you are the body of Christ, and members of a part,
- 28 whom also God, indeed, placed in the ecclesia, first, apostles, second, prophets, third, teachers, thereupon powers, thereupon graces of healing, supports, pilotage, species of languages.
- 29 Not all are apostles. Not all are prophets. Not all are teachers. Not all have powers.
- 30 Not all have the graces of healing. Not all are speaking languages. Not all are interpreting.
- 31 Yet be zealous for the greater graces. And still I am showing you a path, suited to transcendence.

Chapter 13, 1-8, ask "does the body I meet with stand up to this test?

- 1 If I should be speaking in the languages of men and of the messengers, yet should have no love, I have become resounding copper or a clanging cymbal.
- 2 And if I should have prophecy and should be perceiving all secrets and all knowledge, and if I should have all faith, so as to transport mountains, yet have no love, I am nothing.
- 3 And if ever I should be morselling out all my possessions, and if I should be giving up my body, that I should be boasting, yet may have no love, in nothing do I benefit.
- 4 Love is patient, is kind. Love is not jealous. Love is not bragging, is not puffed up,
- 5 is not indecent, is not self-seeking, is not incensed, is not taking account of evil,
- 6 is not rejoicing in injustice, yet is rejoicing together with the truth,
- 7 is forgoing all, is believing all, is expecting all, is enduring all.
- 8 Love is never lapsing: yet, whether prophecies, they will be discarded, or languages, they will cease, or knowledge, it will be discarded.
- 9 For out of an instalment are we knowing, and out of an instalment are we prophesying.
- 10 Now whenever [the] maturity may be coming, that which is out of an instalment shall be discarded.
- 11 When I was a minor, I spoke as a minor, I was disposed as a minor, I took account of things as a minor. Yet when I have become a man, I have discarded that which is a minor's.
- 12 For at present we are observing by means of a mirror, in an enigma, yet then, face to face. At present I know out of an instalment, yet then I shall recognize according as I am recognized also.
- 13 Yet now are remaining faith, expectation, love -- these three. Yet the greatest of these is love.

Colossians 3:

- 12 Put on, then, as God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, pitiful compassions, kindness, humility, meekness, patience,
- 13 bearing with one another and dealing graciously among yourselves, if anyone should be having a complaint against any. According as the Lord also deals graciously with you, thus also you.
- 14 Now over all these put on love, which is the tie of maturity.
- 15 And let the peace of Christ be arbitrating in your hearts, for which you were called also **in one body**; and become thankful.

16 Let the word of Christ be making its home in you richly, in all wisdom, teaching and admonishing yourselves; in psalms, in hymns, in spiritual songs, singing, with grace in your hearts to God.

17 And everything, whatsoever you may be doing, in word or in act, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ, giving thanks to God, the Father, through Him.

Ephesians 4:

- 1 I am entreating you, then, I, the prisoner in the Lord, to walk worthily of the calling with which you were called,
- 2 with all humility and meekness, with patience, bearing with one another in love,
- 3 endeavoring to keep the **unity of the spirit** with the **tie of peace**:
- 4 one body and one spirit, according as you were called also with one expectation of your calling;
- 5 one Lord, one faith, one baptism,
- 6 one God and Father of all, Who is over all and through all and in all.

...

- 11 And the same One gives these, indeed, as apostles, yet these as prophets, yet these as evangelists, yet these as pastors and teachers,
- 12 toward the adjusting of the saints for the work of dispensing, for the upbuilding of **the body of Christ**,
- 13 unto the end that we should all attain to the unity of the faith and of the realization of the son of God, to a mature man, to the measure of the stature of **the complement of the**Christ.
- 14 that we may by no means still be minors, surging hither and thither and being carried about by every wind of teaching, by human caprice, by craftiness with a view to the systematizing of the deception.
- 15 Now, being true, in love we should be making all grow into Him, Who is the Head --- Christ --
- 16 out of Whom **the entire body**, being articulated together and united through every assimilation of the supply, in accord with the operation in measure of each one's part, is making **for the growth of the body**, for the upbuilding of itself in love.
- 17 This, then, I am saying and attesting in the Lord: By no means are you still to be walking according as those of the nations also are walking, in the vanity of their mind,
- 18 their comprehension being darkened, being estranged from the life of God because of the ignorance that is in them, because of the callousness of their hearts,
- 19 who, being past feeling, in greed give themselves up with wantonness to all uncleanness as a vocation.
- 20 Now you did not thus learn Christ,
- 21 since, surely, Him you hear, and by Him were taught (according as the truth is in Jesus),
- 22 to put off from you, as regards your former behavior, the old humanity which is corrupted in accord with its seductive desires,
- 23 yet to be rejuvenated in the spirit of your mind,
- 24 and to put on the new humanity which, in accord with God, is being created in righteousness and benignity of the truth.
- 25 Wherefore, putting off the false, let each be speaking the truth with his associate, for we are members of one another.

26 Are you indignant, and not sinning? Do not let the sun be sinking on your vexation, 27 nor yet be giving place to the Adversary.

...

- 29 Let no tainted word at all be issuing out of your mouth, but if any is good toward needful edification, that it may be giving grace to those hearing.
- 30 And do not be causing sorrow to the holy spirit of God by which you are sealed for the day of deliverance.
- 31 Let all bitterness and fury and anger and **clamor** and **calumny** be taken away from you with all malice, [a crying, outcry] [slander, detraction, speech injurious, to another's good name]
- 32 yet become kind to one another, tenderly compassionate, dealing graciously among yourselves, according as God also, in Christ, deals graciously with you.

Chapter 5

- 1 Become, then, imitators of God, as beloved children,
- 2 and be walking in love, according as Christ also loves you, and gives Himself up for us, an approach present and a sacrifice to God, for a fragrant odor.
- 3 Now, all prostitution and uncleanness or greed -- let it not even be named among you, according as is becoming in saints --
- 4 and vileness and stupid speaking or insinuendo, which are not proper, but rather thanksgiving. [1) pleasantry, humour, facetiousness; 2) in a bad sense, scurrility (abuse), ribaldry, low jesting]
- 5 For this you perceive, knowing that no paramour at all or unclean or greedy person, who is an idolater, has any enjoyment of the allotment in the kingdom of Christ and of God.
- 6 Let no one be seducing you with empty words, for because of these things the indignation of God is coming on the sons of stubbornness.
- 7 Do not, then, become joint partakers with them,
- 8 for you were once darkness, yet now you are light in the Lord.
- 9 As children of light be walking (for the fruit of the light is in all goodness and righteousness and truth),
- 10 testing what is well pleasing to the Lord.

Romans 7:4-6

you also were put to death to the law through **the body of Christ**, for you to become Another's, Who is roused from among the dead, that we should be bearing fruit to God.

- 5 For, when we were in the flesh, the passions of sins, which were through the law, operated in our members to be bearing fruit to Death.
- 6 Yet now we were exempted from the law, dying in that in which we were retained, so that it is for us to be slaving in newness of spirit and not in oldness of letter.

Romans 12:1-4, esp. 2-4

- 1 I am entreating you, then, brethren, by the pities of God, to present your bodies a sacrifice, living, holy, well pleasing to God, your logical divine service,
- 2 and not to be configured to this eon, but to be transformed by the renewing of your mind, for you to be testing what is the will of God, good and well pleasing and perfect.

- 3 For I am saying, through the grace which is given to me, to everyone who is among you, not to be overweening **[over-disposed]**, beyond what your disposition must be **[not to have an exaggerated opinion of his own importance]**, but to be of a sane disposition, as God parts to each the measure of faith.
- 4 For even as, in one body, we have many members, yet all the members have not the same function.
- 5 thus we, who are many, are one body in Christ, yet individually members of one another.

2 Ti 3:1-7

- 1 Now this know, that in the last days perilous periods will be present,
- 2 for men will be selfish, fond of money, ostentatious, proud, calumniators, stubborn to parents, ungrateful, malign,
- 3 without natural affection, implacable, adversaries, uncontrollable, fierce, averse to the good,
- 4 traitors, rash, conceited, fond of their own gratification rather than fond of God;
- 5 having a form of devoutness, yet denying its power.
- 6 These, also, shun. For of these are those who are slipping into homes and are leading into captivity little women, heaped with sins, being led by various lusts and gratifications,
- 7 always learning and yet not at any time able to come into a realization of the truth.

Mat. 15

- 1 Then, coming to Jesus from Jerusalem are Pharisees and scribes, saying,
- 2 "Wherefore are your disciples transgressing the tradition of the elders? For they are not washing their hands whenever they may be eating bread."
- 3 Now He, answering, said to them, "Wherefore are you also transgressing the precept of God because of your tradition?
- 4 For God said, 'Honor father and mother,' and, 'He who is saying aught that is evil of father or mother, let him decease in death.'
- 5 Yet you are saying that 'Whoever may be saying to father or mother, "An approach present is whatsoever you may be benefited by me,"
- 6 by no means shall he be honoring his father.' And you invalidate the word of God because of your tradition.
- 7 Hypocrites! Ideally Isaiah prophesies concerning you, saying,
- 8 This people with their lips is honoring Me, Yet their heart is away at a distance from Me.
- 9 Yet in vain are they revering Me, Teaching for teachings the directions of men."
- 10 And, calling the throng to Him, He said to them, "Hear and understand!
- 11 Not that which is entering into the mouth is contaminating a man, but that which is going out of the mouth, this is contaminating a man."

Mat. 23:

- 8 "Now you may not be called 'Rabbi,' for One is your Teacher, yet you all are brethren.
- 9 And 'father' you should not be calling one of you on the earth, for One is your Father, the heavenly.
- 10 Nor yet may you be called preceptors, for One is your Preceptor, the Christ.
- 11 "Now the greatest one among you shall be your servant.
- 12 Yet anyone who shall be exalting himself shall be humbled, and anyone who shall be humbling himself shall be exalted.

- 13 "Now woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! for you are locking the kingdom of the heavens in front of men. For you are not entering, neither are you letting those entering to enter.
- 14 (no verse 14)
- 15 "Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! for you are going about the sea and the dry land to make one proselyte, and whenever he may be becoming one, you are making him more than double a son of Gehenna than you are.
- 16 "Woe to you, blind guides! who are saying, 'Whoever should be swearing by the temple, it is nothing; yet whoever should be swearing by the gold of the temple is owing.'
- 17 Stupid and blind! for which is greater, the gold, or the temple that hallows the gold?
- 18 And, 'Whoever should be swearing by the altar, it is nothing; yet whoever should be swearing by the approach present upon it is owing.'
- 19 Stupid and blind! for which is greater, the approach present, or the altar that is hallowing the approach present?
- 20 He, then, who swears by the altar is swearing by it and by all which is upon it.
- 21 And he who swears by the temple is swearing by it and by Him Who is dwelling in it.
- 22 And he who swears by heaven is swearing by the throne of God and by Him Who is sitting upon it.
- 23 "Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! for you are taking tithes from the mint and the dill and the cumin, and leave the weightier matters of the law, judging and mercy and faith. Now these it was binding for you to do, and not leave those.
- 24 Blind guides! straining out a gnat, yet swallowing a camel!
- 25 "Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! for you are cleansing the outside of the cup and the plate, yet inside they are brimming with rapacity and incontinence.
- 26 Blind Pharisee! Cleanse first the inside of the cup and the plate, that their outside also may be becoming clean!
- 27 "Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! for you are resembling the whitewashed sepulchers which outside, indeed, are appearing beautiful, yet inside they are crammed with the bones of the dead and all uncleanness.
- 28 Thus you, also, outside, indeed, are appearing to men to be just, yet inside you are distended with hypocrisy and lawlessness.
- 29 "Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! for you are building the sepulchers of the prophets and adorning the tombs of the just,
- 30 and you are saying, 'If we were in the days of our fathers, we would not be participants with them in the blood of the prophets.'
- 31 So that you are testifying to yourselves that you are the sons of those who murder the prophets.
- 32 And you! Fill full the measure of your father!
- 33 "Serpents! Progeny of vipers! How may you be fleeing from the judging of Gehenna?
- 34 Therefore, lo! I am dispatching to you prophets and wise men and scribes. Of them, some you will be killing and crucifying, and of them, some you will be scourging in your synagogues and persecuting from city to city,

2 Cor. 11:

- 12 Now what I am doing and will be doing is that I should strike off the incentive from those wanting an incentive, that in what they are boasting they may be found according as we also.
- 13 For such are false apostles, fraudulent workers, being transfigured into apostles of Christ.
- 14 And no marvel, for Satan himself is being transfigured into a messenger of light.
- 15 It is no great thing, then, if his servants also are being transfigured as dispensers of righteousness -- whose consummation shall be according to their acts.

Ephesians 6:

- 11 Put on the panoply of God, to enable you to stand up to the stratagems of the Adversary,
- 12 for it is not ours to wrestle with blood and flesh, but with the sovereignties, with the authorities, with the world-mights of this darkness, with the spiritual forces of wickedness among the celestials.
- 13 Therefore take up the panoply of God that you may be enabled to withstand in the wicked day, and having effected all, to stand.
- 14 Stand, then, girded about your loins with truth, with the cuirass of righteousness put on.
- 15 and your feet sandaled with the readiness of the evangel of peace;
- 16 with all taking up the large shield of faith, by which you will be able to extinguish all the fiery arrows of the wicked one.
- 17 And receive the helmet of salvation and the sword of the spirit, which is a declaration of God.
- 18 During every prayer and petition be praying on every occasion (in spirit being vigilant also for it with all perseverance and petition concerning all the saints,
- 19 and for me), that to me expression may be granted, in the opening of my mouth with boldness, to make known the secret of the evangel,
- 20 for which I am conducting an embassy in a chain, that in it I should be speaking boldly, as I must speak.

1 John 5:14-15

This is the confidence we have in approaching God: that if we ask anything according to his will, he hears us. And if we know that he hears us—whatever we ask—we know that we have what we asked of him.

Romans 12:12

Be joyful in hope, patient in affliction, faithful in prayer.

Philippians 4:6-7NIV

Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

1 Thessalonians 5:16-18

Rejoice always, pray continually, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus.

Colossians 4:5-6

Be wise in the way you act toward outsiders; make the most of every opportunity. Let your conversation be always full of grace, seasoned with salt, so that you may know how to answer everyone.

The Peace of God that passes...reign in your hearts.

I am the Lord your God. You shal have...

My shield.

My strong tower.

Let not your hearts be troubled.

Not a spirit of timidity...

Not...slavery to fear again...

Guide you into all the truth.

Where the spirit of the Lord is, there is liberty

Pharisees versus the Lord...and thus it is even today.

Appearance...denies the power

"For fear of the Jews." Niccodemus and others.

When Paul left "the church" of the Jews, headed by the entrenched hierarchy, all hell broke loose against him. Was he wrong? Were they right?

Why did Paul feel NO quilt?

Notice Paul DID feel remorse...not for leaving Judaism, but for the Jews who refused to accept the glad tidings that Jesus Christ was the Messiah; that in His name, and by NO OTHER, they could be saved. Paul would have given up his own salvation for his kinsmen's.

Paul...from Galatians forward.

Daily Bible...Look at parallel between the hundreds of years before Jesus...development of rabbis, synagogues, Pharisees, Sadducees (sects, "denominations"), their relationship with people; and Christian history from near the end of the first century to today. It's longer, full of myth, mixed with pagan holidays and rituals.

Romans 8

Therefore, there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus, **2** because through Christ Jesus the law of the Spirit who gives life has set you free from the law of sin and death.