

Welcome friends to another broadcast of “Morsels for Zion’s Poor”

When many read that CHRIST said *“I will build my church”*, they envision the establishment of a denomination or organization which came into existence at that point in time and is perpetuated by direct as subsequent “congregations” are formed. Most consider that the “church” is an organization with a hierarchical structure onto which various members are added.

This concept is quite appealing to the flesh and from a pragmatic view point seems quite plausible and, I might add, reasonable. In fact, many gyrations of history are produced by some to prove that their particular “order” or “sect” is indeed the “one true church” which they now perpetuate and guard against all who might oppose it or dare to establish their own pedigree.

Men love religion almost as much as they do their supposed “free will”. Such thought exists to exalt men as able to determine their own fate and find god wherever they desire. No doctrine is more despised by them than the *“preaching of the cross”* and the NARROW PATH to ETERNAL LIFE. The natural man despises the TRUTH in its very essence but will embrace the most narrow and the most broad paths as long as they are able to control their own destiny.

The church of JESUS CHRIST is that body which HE has redeemed with HIS own life’s blood. HE died for that body as a whole and not as a consideration of its individual parts even though it is clear that the body is made up of its individual parts. The scripture indicates that the body does not exist without its parts and the parts of the body are that of which the body consists. HE did not die for the mouth, nor did HE die for the hand, but rather for the body.

It is in this concept that the necessity and value of “brotherly love” is demonstrated and manifested. The saints of GOD are part and parcel of one another and cannot and must not be divided but rather cleave to one another. Even as Paul writes, *“so also is CHRIST”*. *“If a man say, I love God, and hateth his brother, he is a liar: for he that loveth not his brother whom he hath seen, how can he love God whom he hath not seen? And this commandment have we from him, That he who loveth God love his brother also.”* Is this not what our LORD had in mind when HE said, *“By this shall all men know that ye are my disciples, if ye have love one to another.”*? And what Paul had reference to when he declared, *“Be kindly affectioned one to another with brotherly love; in honor preferring one another.”* Should it not be a source of shame to us when divisions and strife exist among the saints of GOD?

Here in the twenty first century, those who claim to be following CHRIST are indeed a long way from the ideal spoken of by Paul and our LORD. Yet we must embrace this concept or else reject the very teachings that are at the core of the faith once delivered to the saints. It is impossible for us to tell who the saints of GOD are in the broadest sense, yet the LORD has put us together in local assemblies, with those we can both see and touch, with this very mandate, to *“love one another”* even as CHRIST has loved us. If we don’t love those we have seen, how could we possibly love those whom we have not.

The body of CHRIST has one HEAD. *“Christ is the head of the church: and he is the savior of the body.”* This is a very simple and straightforward truth, yet there are many who ignore it by appointing gifted men to positions of dominance and there is no shortage of those willing to take those appointments. Well did Paul instruct those who were “elders” to lead by example rather than decree. There is no scriptural example of churches being known by who their elders are or how eloquent they might be in preaching the glorious truth of the gospel.

The body of CHRIST is interdependent on that which is supplied by every part. The *“work of the ministry”* spoken of in Eph.4:12 is not the practice of “preaching” but rather the result of it in a healthy church. If a church is not ministering one to the other then it is not functioning as described in the New Testament which is *“compactd by that which every joint supplieth, according to the effectual working in the measure of every part, maketh increase of the body unto the edifying of itself in love.”*

The body of CHRIST is the sum of its parts, with each one being exactly what GOD ordained it to be. *“For the body is not one member, but many.”* (1Cor 12:14) There are no “important” parts or “unimportant” parts, neither is there a “spectator section” in this body.

The body of CHRIST does not exist simply for the purpose of exercising its mouth. Rather the whole body is put on display in order to manifest the love of CHRIST for HIS people as HE works in them both to will and to do of HIS good pleasure. HE takes great delight in HIS body which is *“the fullness of him that filleth all in all.”* *“To the intent that now unto the principalities and powers in heavenly places might be known by the church the manifold wisdom of GOD.”*

“Thy free grace alone,” #11 **If you would like a free transcript of this broadcast email us at forthepoor@windstream.net**