

Body Life

Civic organizations, political organizations, businesses, and even non-profit organizations are careful with their membership/employees. They desire highly qualified individuals to be a part of their organization. Unqualified individuals or those who hamper the effectiveness of the organization and its mission are generally dismissed.

That is how man thinks and how man organizes. God is different.

God keeps the weak. In fact, in the body of Christ (the church), the weak members are given prominence. The Apostle Paul wrote to the church in Corinth that those who “seem to be weaker are necessary.” He said that the members “without honor” were given “abundant honor.” (See 1 Corinthians 12:18-27.) So, a member of the body of Christ should never have the attitude that another member is not important or necessary.

This principle is easily illustrated with the human body. If I smack my thumb with a hammer, I do not cut it off. My other hand holds it and my tear ducts might even activate. Other body members work harder to do the work that the injured thumb would ordinarily do. They also provide protection for the injured thumb. The members of my body *respond*.

The Christian widows in Jerusalem (Acts 6) are an example this principle at work in the

early church. They were given “abundant honor.” How? Others humbled themselves to provide for them and serve them. They were not cast aside or forced out because they had needs; they were considered important.

In God’s church the strong rally around those with needs. The ones with needs are given *abundant honor* as they are shown that they are important. Those who are able to provide give the needed support or attention. They treat those who are weak or

in need as equals: *abundant honor*.

It is necessary for the members of Christ to respond to many kinds of needs: financial, employment, parental, assistance in and around the home, or simple conversation. Some may need spiritual help: teaching or help dealing with sin. Not everyone responds to every need, but those who are healthy and strong and have opportunity respond.

We do not cast off members of Christ’s body just because there are needs, or because of weakness. We give. We cry. We console. We assist. We teach. We appeal. We rebuke. We pray. We consider others as more important than ourselves. We are the body of Christ...and we give attention to those who are weak and in need.

Mark Stinnett

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