

Week of January 17, 2010  
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## **Monday**

1Cor. 12:17-18 If the whole body were an eye, where would the hearing be? If the whole were hearing, where would the sense of smell be? But now God has placed the members, each one of them, in the body, just as He desired.

Nobody likes to think of themselves as 'dependent'. Yet, we all are. We are dependent upon God, His mercy, love, and grace. What is more, we are dependent upon one another in the body of Christ. The Scripture makes that abundantly clear. Each member is unique with differing gifts and abilities, and none of us possess every gift needed. Therefore, no one of us is whole apart from others. Together we are the body of Christ, His church. One has one gift, another a different gift. One plays one part, another a differing part. All parts are needed for the health and success of the body. Thank God for your position. Thank God for the positioning of others. Determine to strengthen others, knowing you are strengthening by them.

## **Tuesday**

Gal. 5:15 But if you bite and devour one another, take care that you are not consumed by one another.

One thing is certain, a mentally stable person does not cut off his own foot, abuse or damage it. Another thing is just as sure, a spiritually stable person does not damage, with word or deed, another part of the body of Christ. How sad and unsustainable is the body if one member attacks another. In medicine, such is termed cancer or autoimmune disease. In the army it is called treason or mutiny. Let us find ways to bind up one another, encourage one another, and build one another. Purposely, intentionally look for means to build and not tear down, to build trust, to convey encouragement, to bind together the body.

## **Wednesday**

Matt. 18:15 "If your brother sins, go and show him his fault in private; if he listens to you, you have won your brother."

Too often today, we envision the members of a church as both independent and unaccountable. But that was never God's intent nor instruction. Instead, like iron sharpens iron, God calls us to sharpen one another (Prov. 27:17). We are not to become embittered when a brother lovingly confronts us. Nor are we to silently overlook another who through sin is hurting himself and/or the body. We are accountable to one another. Building each other up in love. Encouraging one another in ministry. Submitting to one another in love and even biblically confronting one another when needed. That is God's call, plan, and purpose.

## **Thursday**

Eph. 2:10 For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand so that we would walk in them.

Each of us was created as a work of God for the purpose of good works of ministry. We are obligated to the work, for we were bought with the price of Jesus' blood. We are commanded to do good works as a means of witness (Matt. 5:16). Too long has church been a place to simply sit and soak up the teachings of grace. It must instead be a place to work, serve, and worship. Get up, get going. God has called you to ministry, to partnership, to purpose.

## **Friday**

Eph. 5:21 and be subject to one another in the fear of Christ.

The call for mutual submission in the church and in the home, to leaders and in exercising leadership is a difficult call, often deflected, ignored, or explained away. Yet this obligation of God on our lives is essential to genuine faith. It is essential to wholeness, maturity and victory in the church of the Lord and in your personal walk. Where are you being submissive? Reflect upon to whom you are to be subject. Tell God of your struggles and implore God for help. If the thought of submission is repulsive to you, I must ask, are you yourself submitted to the Savior?