**EDIFYING THE BODY OF CHRIST**

**Text: Matthew 5:40**

* “And the King will answer and say to them, ‘Assuredly, I say to you, inasmuch as you did *it* to one of the least of these My brethren, you did *it* to Me.’

**INTRO:**

* Can you give me a quick idea of any reason why Jesus said this verse?
* Any logic you can think of?
* Colossians 1:24 I now rejoice in my sufferings for you, and fill up in my flesh what is lacking in the afflictions of Christ, for the sake of His body, which is the church,
* Ephesians 4:15 but, speaking the truth in love, may grow up in all things into Him who is the head—Christ
* Matthew 16:18 “And I also say to you that you are Peter, and on this rock I will build My church, and the gates of Hades shall not prevail against it.
* The Rock He was referring was the revelation that Jesus is Christ, the Son of the Living God
* If you believe in that truth, you are part of the church, His Body

**AIM:**

* FOR US TO EDIFY THE BODY OF CHRIST BY FUNCTIONING AS INTENDED
* FOR US NOT TO RUIN THE BODY OF CHRIST

**I. EVERY PARTS OF THE BODY WORKS FOR THE EDIFICATION OF THE BODY**

* Illustration:
* Eyes
* Nose
* Ears
* Mouth
* Hands
* Feet
* No part in the body works for the destruction of its own
* Pancreas
* Main function is to secrete Insulin
* Without Insulin, glucose will be trapped in the blood vessels
* Insulin transport glucose by permeating the capillary walls
* The problem with Diabetes, the Pancreas secrete little or no Insulin
* Factors that affect includes:
* Too much sugar intake
* Too much acid intake
* Too much fats intake
* Inactivity
* Anything not of use will not function well or will not work at all
* Instead of secreting Insulin, the Pancreas becomes busy neutralizing sugar, fats, acids, or not working
* In other words, if you are not doing what you are supposed to be doing, you must be doing something else
* Lots of Christians are doing what they are not supposed to be doing because they fail to do what they need to do
* Luke 11:23 “He who is not with Me is against Me, and he who does not gather with Me scatters.
* If you are not gathering, you are scattering
* Doing nothing is scattering

**II. GOD’S DESIGN FOR ALL PARTS TO EDIFY THE BODY**

* Eph 4:11 And He Himself gave some *to be* apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, and some pastors and teachers,
* 12 for the equipping of the saints for the work of ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ,
* 15 but, speaking the truth in love, may grow up in all things into Him who is the head—Christ—
* EPH 4: 16 from whom the whole body,
* joined and knit together by what every joint supplies,
* according to the effective working by which every part does its share,
* causes growth of the body for the edifying of itself in love.
* Appendix is the only part of the body that has no function
* It can be removed without causing any problem or damage
* Worse to worst, Amputation is necessary to save life
* A person may lose his foot but remains alive
* Gangrene-localized death and decomposition of body tissue, resulting from obstructed circulation or bacterial infection.
* It’s not good to lose a part but it’s better than losing life
* Amputation prevents the spread of gangrene
* Matthew 18:15 “If your brother or sister[a] sins,[b] go and point out their fault, just between the two of you. If they listen to you, you have won them over.
* 16 But if they will not listen, take one or two others along, so that ‘every matter may be established by the testimony of two or three witnesses.’
* 17 If they still refuse to listen, tell it to the church; and if they refuse to listen even to the church, treat them as you would a pagan or a tax collector.
* II Thessalonians 3:14 And if anyone does not obey our word in this epistle, note that person and do not keep company with him, that he may be ashamed.
* 15 Yet do not count *him* as an enemy, but admonish *him* as a brother.
* Titus 3:10 Reject a divisive man after the first and second admonition,

**III. ISOLATION**

* Is necessary to prevent the spread of infection
* AIDS, PTB, MRSA
* It also applies spiritually
* In case of fire, policy says, all doors and windows must be shut
* To keep the fire localized
* A fire door can hold the fire for 30 minutes
* When a disease in the church exist, it must be localized as much as possible
* Proverbs 20:19 He who goes about *as* a talebearer reveals secrets;
* Therefore do not associate with one who flatters with his lips.
* The body would not grow if it does is to battle infections
* Rather it wears out and eventually get sick or dies
* I Corinthians 15:33 Do not be deceived: “Evil company corrupts good habits.”
* Matthew 18:6 6 “Whoever causes one of these little ones who believe in Me to sin, it would be better for him if a millstone were hung around his neck, and he were drowned in the depth of the sea.
* 7 Woe to the world because of offenses! For offenses must come, but woe to that man by whom the offense comes!
* I Cor 8: 9 But beware lest somehow this liberty of yours become a stumbling block to those who are weak.
* 10 For if anyone sees you who have knowledge eating in an idol’s temple, will not the conscience of him who is weak be emboldened to eat those things offered to idols?
* 11 And because of your knowledge shall the weak brother perish, for whom Christ died?
* 12 But when you thus sin against the brethren, and wound their weak conscience, you sin against Christ.

**IV. DOING OUR INDIVIDUAL FUNCTIONS**

* CENTRAL NERVOUS SYSTEM (CNS)
* Ex. Command the Pineal gland to secrete Melantonin
* Melantonin is responsible in making us sleep
* Ex. Computers
* Sunlight or the brightness of the day tells the brain not to secrete Melantonin
* Spiritually speaking, if you keep on sleeping especially on preaching you have not seen the light yet
* In the body of Christ (church), you have a particular function
* Use your gift/s in rendering service so the church gets edified
* Hebrews 10:24 And let us consider one another in order to stir up love and good works,
* 25 not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as *is* the manner of some, but exhorting *one another,* and so much the more as you see the Day approaching.
* You could be a counselor
* You could be an intercessor
* You could be a giver
* There is always something you can do as long as you are willing
* You can invite people to church
* Accommodate, welcome, or entertain new comers or visitors
* Make follow-ups for those who lost their enthusiasm or lukewarm

**CHALLENGE:**

* Are you a gatherer or scatterer?
* Are you edifying the body of Christ?
* Are you not causing harm to His body?
* Are you not causing offenses to the little ones?

**CONCLUSION:**

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