

The Body of Christ

by Cathlyn Wilk

I love walking into church! In order to enter church through the front door, I walk past some beautiful flowers all arranged so artistically on the church grounds. In the winter, I notice that someone awoke extra early to shovel so that I wouldn't slip and fall getting into church. Even though I seldom observe the people that did these works out of love, I know they executed them.



As I sit in the pew, I not only appreciate the organist or music accompanist, who makes my voice swell with the emotion of the hymn or liturgy but also I notice how clean the church floor is, how edifying the banners are to my worship, how ready the Lord's Supper is for me to partake. I am grateful that the flowers are different almost every week and how the church architecture draws my eyes to the cross. I value the fact that the temperature is comfortable so that I can concentrate on my worship. The choir's words as they sing remind me of Bible truths and add to the service. Someone has taken time to type, orchestrate, and provide the bulletin so that I can fully concentrate on the theme of the worship and not be fiddling around trying to figure out whether I'm supposed to be standing, sitting, reciting, reading, or listening. The body of Christ is evident in so many places when I worship.

What part am I of that body? *"In Christ we who are many form one body, and each member belongs to all the others"* Paul reminds the Romans and us in Romans 12:5. Do I come to church to "do my duty"? Am I someone who comes to be entertained for an hour or more, or do I have a place here to serve also? Am I quick to complain about how the accompanist made the singing drag, the soprano whose vibrato in her voice makes me crazy, or how the pastor's sermon wasn't as zippy as it usually is?

Even more important to ponder is what I do after my church experience. I remember when my children were young there would be fighting and grousing in the car even before we were half way home. I use to turn and address my children with the following words, "Brothers and sister (I have two sons and a one daughter), go in peace. Live in harmony with one another. Serve..." You get my drift, don't you?

Other times I leave church and start thinking about all the "stuff" I need to do during the next week. But... are all these activities worship and praise to my Lord OR are they ways to make myself useful, important, or somehow upstanding to God? The body of Christ needs to be evident in church, but it needs to continue moving in activity in the world in which we are to witness.

Some days I feel like a hangnail on that body; I am hurtful to the body, but sometimes the Holy Spirit enables me to "get over myself" and my sinfulness and truly be a part of a healthy, active body. I'm certainly not the head; that's God's masterfulness, head of the church, his body", Ephesians 5:12 says, *"but Christ commands me to cooperate in whatever way the body of Christ needs me."*



Season: Pentecost/Thanksgiving

Videos: 2. Women Mentoring Women

10. The Flying Grandmas

19. Are We Imitators of Christ?

Devotions: 106. The Gap

107. Go to Church

108. Disowned

135. Parenting - God's Way Part 2 of 2

Prayers: 13. Heavenly Father, thank you for providing us with faithful...

26. Heavenly Father, There are some who deny the presence of the devil...

50. Again, Lord, I was blessed when I entered your house today...

Super Girl: 133. My sister and her family were here for Thanksgiving and then again...

Scripture References: John 17:11; 1 Corinthians 6:15; 1 Corinthians 10:17, 33;

1 Corinthians 12:20, 27; Ephesians 4:12, 25

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