

## The Main Point

The Christian community is Christ's body in the world. The Lord asks us individually to give our bodies like his for the sake of the world. Every single person is a valuable part of the body and the Lord imparts to each person one of his gifts/abilities to continue his blessed work on earth till he returns.

## Overview

- 1-V1** Christians don't do the sacrifices of the Hebrews -- sacrifices of animals, fruits of the harvest—or the sacrifice of bad habits or personal pleasures. The LORD pleads with us as his disciples to make the same kind of sacrifice he made which was his \_\_\_\_\_-- his person – his physical and soul life in this world—which has given us freedom and real life.
- 2-V2** That our life in this world would be acceptable to the Lord requires that it not be "of this world." We do \_\_\_\_\_ the behavior and \_\_\_\_\_ of this world—but let God \_\_\_\_\_ us into a new person by changing the way we \_\_\_\_\_.
- 3-V2** The way we habitually think determines our opinion and what we end up doing. So immersing ourselves in God causes us to know what God wants us to \_\_\_\_\_.
- 4-V3** Paul, speaking as God's \_\_\_\_\_, warns us to be \_\_\_\_\_ in our estimate of ourselves. The measure of how valuable we are in the Kingdom does not have to do with our spiritual gifts, our charisma, our following but on how much \_\_\_\_\_ trust in Him \_\_\_\_ has given us.
- 5-V4 5** Continuing the image of the "body," we give to Christ. We are to consider how every part of our physical body is necessary to our survival, usefulness, and zest of life. Likewise, we \_\_\_\_\_ every part (person) of Christ's body—the community of Christians.
- 6-V6** "God has given \_\_\_\_\_ of us the ability to do certain things well."

## Different kinds of people with God-given gifts in Christ's body.

- 7-V6** THE GIFT OF PROPHECY. The gift of knowing what God wants to say to people. This gift is used by exercising \_\_\_\_\_ and speaking out when God gives us insight.
- 8-V7** THE GIFT OF SERVICE. Helping and doing practical things that need to be done.
- 9-V7** THE GIFT OF TEACHING. To make the Scriptures understandable and clear. To do a \_\_\_\_\_ job with this gift means long, hard mental work and study.
- 10-V8** THE GIFT OF ENCOURAGEMENT. The gift of counsel that releases people to do what they know they must do. If we have this gift, Paul says just \_\_\_\_\_! Recognize that you are on duty in every relationship to speak affirming, freeing, empowering words.
- 11-V8** THE GIFT OF MAKING MONEY. If this is your gift, you are under particular responsibility to share money \_\_\_\_\_ and not hoard it for yourself.
- 12-V8** THE GIFT OF LEADERSHIP. The gift of knowing how to get from one place to another and motivating people to follow you and work effectively to get things done. The word for this gift is to take it \_\_\_\_\_. Don't lead people off a cliff.
- 13-V8** THE GIFT OF KINDNESS (MERCY). This is the gift of helping people who don't deserve it. All people take a turn in needing mercy. Those who have this gift are to do it \_\_\_\_\_ and to watch out that they don't get soured by people's lack of character and the messes they make out of their lives.

## Word Study

- GIVE • DO IT • CHRIST'S BODY • BODY • SACRIFICE • COPY

**1. V 1** \_\_\_\_\_ The Greek word is SOMA, referring to the physical body composed of organs, hands and feet, eyes and ears – all the senses – and the brain which enables the spirit indwelling the body to think – to be a living soul. The body was created out of the dust of the earth—as a complement to the human spirit (Genesis 2:7). The body connects human kind with the biological earth and material universe. The spirit connects human kind to God and each other as also spirits. When the body dies, the spirit of the person has to move on. In the life after this life, we will not be disembodied spirits -- but our biological body will be resurrected in its perfect form to live on a resurrected earth.

- Body is used here to speak of where the body is and what it is doing in the physical world under the direction of the spirit man behind the wheel.

**2. V1** \_\_\_\_\_ To give up something of value. What Jesus sacrificed on the cross was his human body. Speaking of God the Son coming among us, we hear the Son saying to the Father, "You did not want animal sacrifices and grain offerings. But you have given me a body so that I might obey you. No, you were not pleased with animals burned on the altar, or with other offerings for sin. Then I said, 'Look, I have come to do your will, O God—just as it is written in the Scriptures. What God wants is for us to be made holy by the sacrifice of the BODY of Christ once for all time.'" Hebrew 10:7-10

**3. V1** \_\_\_\_\_ What the Lord wants from us is the same as he gave: our bodies – our life in this world. Generally speaking, "church goers" are fairly poor at sacrificing their lives in this world. In fact, "church goers" tend to look at the church community (the body of Christ) as one more place where they consume—not sacrifice. If the body of Christ understood this sacrifice and worked at it, churches would be packed every Sunday with worshippers. They would have a hard time figuring out how to spend the money. Christians would be blessing the socks off their families, neighbors, and their communities with every kind service, spiritual gift, and generosity. The company of those saved would explode. And we would be persecuted. In His Steps, by Sheldon, is a story about a church that tried to do it.

**4. V2** \_\_\_\_\_ Serious seekers of God with transformed lives do check-ups on their lifestyle. We are so immersed in the same things that everyone else is, that we don't recognize that some parts of our life are actually not Christian. Eugene Peterson translating this Scripture into contemporary language puts it: "Don't become so well-adjusted to your culture that you fit into it without even thinking. Instead fix your attention on God. You'll be changed from the inside out. Readily recognize what he wants from you, and quickly respond to it. Unlike the culture around you, always dragging you down to its level of immaturity, God brings the best out in you and develops well-formed maturity in you."

**5. V6.** \_\_\_\_\_ The Christian community is compared to a body where all of its parts -- hands, feet, hearts, ears, brains, and organs -- have life sustaining functions. So in a Christian community each person has things to give and do that are highly valuable to their life together. Each one is able to do things essential to the life and fruitfulness of the body. "God has given each of us the ability to do certain things well." V6 The most useful Church communities help people find out what God made them for and provide ways for them to do it.

**6.V8** \_\_\_\_\_ How do we make a spiritual gift God planted in us work? Commonly we think that because God gave it, he will cause it to happen some fine day.

The way it happens is (that by faith) – unsure about what’s coming out – we just do it—we speak out – we serve when we see a need—we give money when we see a need—we volunteer to lead – we follow our heart and do kindness and mercy. Then the gift kicks in.

**What does this Scripture say to you?**

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