

*From Where I Sit . . .*

## **“Let All Things Be Done Unto Edifying”**

(1 Cor. 14:26; Eph. 4:11-16)

God designed a beautiful creation and made man as the crown of that creation with a vibrant spirit made in His image ( **Gen. 1: 26-27**). The wonderful thing about this creation is that whether he was tall, short, fat, thin, black, white, yellow, red, bald, hairy, this creation was made up of both an outer shell and an inner man. All too often, we put the premium on the outer man in sizing up who a person is (at least initially). Often we come to realize that there's far more to a person than what meets the eye. Thank God for that!

You see, God made the “real” person in such a way that he doesn't have to ever grow older, just better (or worse if one chooses to accent negative qualities). God made us so that we can be renewed day by day (**2 Cor. 4:16**). Not only can our physical body be refreshed and rejuvenated, but the inner spirit can be renewed as one complies with God's laws. He gave each one of us the power to become more than we were: “*to become the sons of God*” (**John 1:12**).

This physical body has the capability, at least in design and intent, and if we cooperate, to keep enzymes, hormones, chemicals, muscular activity, joint activity, organ activity, mental and emotional balance all in harmony. Any one part of this system has a direct bearing on the rest of the body

This physical body with all it's working parts, and the inner self with the ability to be transformed serves as a type in the Scriptures to teach us about another body that the Lord established, the church. It too is a marvelous and Divine living organism. God has equipped that living organism or body (**Eph. 1:22,23**) with all the capability to be renewed in Spirit; to be refreshed in Hope of Glory (**Col. 1:27**); and to be able to grow and reproduce itself through compliance with His laws and by His blessing. Not only has God provided a strong skeleton (doctrine) to support that body, he has equipped it with exercises that boost and build up that body in compliance with “the Law of the Spirit of Life In Christ Jesus.”

Thus the Body of Christ, the Church, is defined in **Eph. 4:11-16** as a body of members that are fitly joined together with each one supplying his part to the building up of the whole body. The body only thrives when its members thrive. God has provided the nutrition. We as members one of another, supply the spiritual interaction that makes it happen in conformity with the Law of God. Personal growth of individual Christians supports the growth of this spiritual body.

As individual Christians add the attributes we fondly call the Christian graces of **2 Pet. 1:5-7** and the fruits of the spirit of **Gal. 5:22-24**, the whole body is increased. Churches must spend time evaluating the ingredients to the building up of a strong body of believers in a local congregation. There are many facets of that personal spiritual development such as education (knowledge) evangelism, worship, benevolence, and all supporting programs that nurture this growth.

All of these have a direct link with the subject of our two texts today (**1 Cor. 14:26; Eph. 4:11-16**), and that is **EDIFICATION** – The Building Up of the body of Christ. We are a fellowship of believers, united in Christ Jesus, and as laborers together with God (**1 Cor 3:9**) we are to supply our part to the edification of the whole body.

We are part of a wonderful family. Each member is extremely important to our total function. When you hurt, we all hurt. When you are faithful, we all are lifted up!

**. . . . Terry Broome**

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