

*"That there should be no schism in the Body; but that the members should have the same care one for another. And whether one member suffer, all the members suffer with it; or one member be honoured, all the members rejoice with it. Now ye are the body of Christ, and members in particular." 1 Corinthians 12:25-27 KJV*



Jesus Christ is *"the Head over all things to the Church, which is His Body."* Ever have an itch you couldn't scratch? You seek out someone to help alleviate the torture. Would you use your head to scratch an itch? You would look pretty ridiculous! Believers are members of Christ's Body, the Ecclesia, the Assembly, the Church. WHERE the Assembly meets, is only a place; not the Church. God wants believers to "scratch the itches," mend the wounds, and carry the burdens necessary for a healthy Body. Hands can't walk, feet can't grasp, ears can't smell, and eyes can't hear. The members of a human body work in concert or we would never walk! In the church I attended as a young lad was a Doctor who ushered and would always hand out spearmint Lifesavers to the children. Children may not remember lessons taught with words, but they will never forget those taught with kindness. I looked forward to Sunday, because of Doc Bitrick's "lifesaver ministry." Some may not see the "candy man" as a minister, but he nonetheless serves the weakest among us and will seldom be forgotten. *"Let us consider one another to provoke unto love and to good works: Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some is; but exhorting one another: and so much the more, as ye see the day approaching."* Like Doc Bitrick, believers must minister to its weakest members. Wounds do not moan. They just bleed. *"Looking diligently lest any man fail of the grace of God; lest any root of bitterness springing up trouble you, and thereby many be defiled. Bitterness and strife are like viral infections, unless given the treatment of forgiveness, prayer, and supplication that will destroy the Body! Bind wounds with oil of the Spirit and bandages of brotherly love. Good sermons are like hot showers. They cleanse and refresh. Better sermons are like surgery. They reveal and remove cancers among us. Yes, they hurt and may leave a scar, but they preserve the life of the Body. The best sermons are those which lift up Jesus in a way which causes sinners to repent and saints to rejoice! What is good for the Body of Christ is also good for the Home. "These commandments...teach them diligently unto thy children, and shalt talk of them when thou sittest in thine house, and when thou walkest by the way, and when thou liest down, and when thou risest up."* Women can't teach boys to be good fathers and men can't teach girls to be good mothers. It takes faithful Moms AND Dads to raise Godly children! If we don't instill in our children the *"fear of the Lord,"* the *"Body of Christ"* will suffer dire consequences!

Neglect the child and sin will bloom,  
Rejecting Truth and sealing doom,  
Bind ev'ry wound with Truth and Love,  
Brought forth from Father's store above. -CGP

A paralyzed limb is the bane of the body. If you only occupy a pew in a structure, you are a "paralyzed limb." Daily meditation in Truth and prayer without ceasing by each member is the life blood of the Assembly. Neglect of these invites gangrenous evil into the *"Body of Christ. These are spots in your feasts of charity...feeding themselves without fear: clouds they are without water...raging waves of the sea, foaming out their own shame...to whom is reserved the blackness of darkness for ever."* Many religious church-goers will never see Heaven!

*"Let all bitterness, and wrath, and anger, and clamour, and evil speaking, be put away from you, with all malice: And be ye kind one to another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God for Christ's sake hath forgiven you." Ephesians 4:31-32 KJV*