



My Place In His Body

By Pastor Don Nicely

Ever new believer at the time of their conversion experience with God becomes a member of the body of Christ. This is God's plan of redemption for the entire human race. Through His church or His body, He is busy at work reconciling lost mankind back to Himself. Each and every one of us is a vital member of this divinely structured group of "called out" people. We must learn what our place is in the body of Christ and grow toward being a full contributor to that role. Discovering your destiny is the only road to fulfillment and peace. I pray this teaching aid will help you on your quest.

What is the body?

Ephesians 1:22 - 23 (NKJV) ²²And He put all things under His feet, and gave Him to be head over all things to the church, ²³which is His body, the fullness of Him who fills all in all.

According to this scripture, the church is the body of Christ. If you try to serve God outside of His church you are a severed member of the body. The church is made up of individuals that have been saved and "Ekklesia" or "called out" of Satan's kingdom of darkness. We no longer are of the world, but have been made citizens of the kingdom of God.

Colossians 1:13 (NKJV) ¹³He has delivered us from the power of darkness and conveyed us into the kingdom of the Son of His love,

When we use the term "body of Christ" we are speaking of an organic union between the Lord Jesus Christ and the total company of believers that have joined themselves to Him.

According to scriptures at the time of our conversion the Holy Spirit enters into our hearts, and makes our bodies into His temple.

1 Corinthians 6:19 (NKJV) ¹⁹Or do you not know that your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit who is in you, whom you have from God, and you are not your own?

Also by the same Spirit we are then baptized into the body of Christ (*don't confuse this with the baptism of the Holy Spirit with the evidence of speaking in other tongues as some do*)

1 Corinthians 12:13 (NKJV) ¹³For by one Spirit we were all baptized into one body—

It is vitally important that we understand it is through our practical commitment to each member in the body that the will of God and Christ's purposes are fulfilled. We must all take our rightful place in the body to fulfill and make our individual contributions to the church.

Romans 12:4 - 5 (NKJV) ⁴For as we have many members in one body, but all the members do not have the same function, ⁵so we, being many, are one body in Christ, and individually members of one another.

Only God knows our place in the body, for He is the one who created us specifically for that role.

1 Corinthians 12:18 (NKJV) ¹⁸But now God has set the members, each one of them, in the body just as He pleased.

We must be willing to accept the unique position which God has given us. Although we each differ in our talents, gifts and natural abilities; we are each necessary to the success of the body.

How to find your place in the body of Christ

Understanding that you have a role in the body, and finding it are two entirely different things. Let's look at **seven** practical steps you can take to finding your place in Christ's body.

- **Submit yourself to God's purpose for you;** We must be willing to accept whatever calling God has placed on our lives. Understand that every area of service to Christ is equally important. Never negatively or competitively compare your place in Christ's body. 2 Corinthians 10:12
- **2 Corinthians 10:12 (NKJV)** ¹²For we dare not class ourselves or compare ourselves with those who commend themselves. But they, measuring themselves by themselves, and comparing themselves among themselves, are not wise.
- **Don't get ahead of God;** We must patiently give God time to reveal His place of services to us. When we first begin our walk with God He would rather we learn more about Him and His word. At this time in our experience with Him He would rather we worship Him more than work for Him.
- **Make yourself available;** Many times God doesn't use the most talented or skilled person, but instead the most available. Get involved in the heartbeat of your church. Attend prayer meetings, church work days, and special outreach efforts. Just help out any way that you can and from your availability God will place you where He wants you.
- **Consider how God has shaped you;** (look at the brochure entitled; "Discovering your S.H.A.P.E. for a more in-depth study) Each of us has been divinely shaped with different talents, gifts, and abilities. For example; if you can't carry a tune while singing, chances are leading worship is not your role in His body. Remember to be consistent and explore different areas of interest and God will show you what He wants you to do.
- **Listen to others for confirmation;** Sometimes the comments and opinions of others can be a valuable asset to discovering your role. God usually uses more mature members in His body to confirm what He has already placed in your heart. And of course don't rule out a word of wisdom or prophesy as a confirmation of what God has already told you to do.
- **Get Equipped;** Once you discover your place in the body, seek out resources to train and prepare you for service. Everything from mowing the church lawn to sweeping the sanctuary floor should be done with excellence. Take advantage of special training and equipping seminars offered by the church to help prepare you to serve with excellence.

- **Be willing to make sacrifices;** Every calling in the kingdom comes with a price. Many times before the Lord promotes us to another level He will test us and see our level of commitment to Him. This testing only serves to strengthen our character and increase the level of anointing God can place on our lives. Remember two things; God will only use someone that He can trust, and He won't promote you to another level until you are over qualified at the position that you are already at.