

For Our Information

Bill Venable had heart tests done last week. One of the valves is not functioning properly. He will have a procedure after the first of the year to help correct this. He feels tired much of the time.

Betty Ragsdale is doing better.

Brenda Keisler is still having some pain as she waits for her recent procedures to take affect.

The Hendersons will be in Texas part of this week.

Keep your brothers & sisters in mind

We seek only to serve God according to His Will!

the problem. Indeed, I have seen congregations which did not support various institutions only because they were too small to do so. They had lost their Head and just weren't big enough to have blatant symptoms.

The problem is that the body is acting without the approval of the Head. That is the sum total of the problem. The reason that a congregation is not "sound" has little to do with what it does and everything to do with how it acts with respect to its Head. If it respects and submits to its Head then the programs or institutions which have no scriptural basis never find their genesis because the body acts in accordance with the direction of the Head. If the Head gives no direction, then no action is taken. When the Head gives direction then action is taken as prescribed.

Let us then be a body that is well. A body that listens to and heeds its Head.

Contact Us

We want opportunities to speak with others about our work in the Lord's Kingdom.

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Seeking His Righteousness

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Acting Without the Approval of the Head

Mickey Chandler

I was recently viewing the website of a prominent institutional congregation in Austin, Texas. While there, I noticed a link to a page listing the resumes of members who are looking for work.

Now, I have no problem with people finding jobs. Indeed, I am mindful of the command of the Apostle Paul as he said, by inspiration, "that if any should not work, neither should he eat" (2Thessalonians. 3:10). I also have no problem with helping people find jobs. I would consider this a good work (Galatians 6:10).



Now you are Christ's body, and individually members of it.

1Corinthians 12:27



Meet With Us

Worship Services

Sunday 10:20 am & 5:00 pm

Bible Classes

Sunday 9:30 AM

Wednesday 7:00 PM

1512 Tanner St. Malvern, AR

TannerSt.com

So, they are doing a good work. They are helping members find work so that they can obey Paul's injunction. And, they are to be commended for it. Or, should they be?

I have only one objection to this page. I can find no place in my New Testament that shows any congregation anywhere entering into the field of "headhunting" or becoming a "resume service." If you can find one, I would love to see it.

As I find the church described in the pages of the Bible, I find a simple organization. The dedicated purpose of the church was to be *"the pillar and ground of the truth"* (1Timothy 3:15). In accomplishing this goal, the church acts as a "body" does.

Now, I don't mean by this that the church acts as a collective. While there are passages in the New Testament which describe the collective gifts present in a congregation and likens the church to a "body" in that regard, when I say that the church acts as a "body" I mean that it acts in a manner befitting a body.

If the church is indeed the body of Christ (Romans 7:4; 1Corinthians 12:27) then it must act in as a body acts. This means that we should be able to look at the physical bodies entrusted to us by God and see a similarity to the church He established.

A normal body, operating as God intended, acts under the control of the head. Where the head says to act, the body acts. The eyes look where the head directs. The fingers write those things directed by the head. The tongue speaks what it is directed to speak

Store In My Heart

Ephesians 5:23

For the husband is the head of the wife even as Christ is the head of the church, his body, and is himself its Savior.

We must remember that Christ is the absolute ruler in regards to the church. It belongs to him and he controls it as your head controls your body. He is deserving of such honor and obedience because He is the Savior of the church.

Our place in the body is to be used by the Head according to His desire. Jesus knows what must be done in order to please God. We need to submit to Him as Head in all things.

As Paul illustrates in other letters, what the hand wants is of no consequence except as the head directs it. Christ is Ruler Supreme!

by the head. Even those things we do without thinking, like breathing, happen at the direction of the head.

This, then, is the way that a church ought to act. The church should act in accordance with the dictates of its Head, Jesus Christ. Where the Head says to act, the body should act and it should perform those actions in the manner directed by the head. Conversely, where the Head says not to act, the body should not act.

A church acting without the authority of its Head soon finds itself running hither, thither, and yon. It engages in all sorts of activities for which the Bible makes no mention or for which there is no approval found. When asked about why an activity is engaged in, the now headless body responds that "it has not been told not to do it."

Now, imagine that. Which of us have bodies that act of their own accord? Some do, and the owners of those bodies are quickly seen by doctors because those bodies are seen to be "unwell." We seek medical help when our bodies fail to respond to our heads or when our bodies start to act in excess of the directions given by our heads. Yet, amazingly, when the "body of Christ" acts in a manner that shows that it is acting of its own accord, men are wont to think nothing of it, and sometimes even encourage it as though it were a good thing.

Sometimes we are prone to letting the symptoms be the disease. The true problem is not the program or institution which some brethren want to create or support, but those are things which are indicative of