

The Oak Grove Oracle

(Family News & Views of the Oak Grove Church of Christ)

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Finding Your Place in the Body of Christ

Where do you fit in? The church is the body of Christ (Eph. 1:22-23, Col. 1:18), with Christ as its Head (Eph. 5:23). The local church is made up of many different Christians (I Cor. 12:12-14), who have many different talents or abilities (Rms. 12:4-6), which are to be used to promote the growth and edification of the body of Christ, in love (Eph. 4:12-16).

God's Word says, "For as we have many members in one body, and all members have not the same office: so we, *being* many, are one body in Christ, and every one members one of another. Having then gifts differing according to the grace that is given to us, whether ...**ministry**, *let us wait on our ministering*: or he that teacheth, on **teaching**; or he that exhorteth, on **exhortation**: he that **giveth**, *let him do it* with simplicity; he that **ruleth**, with diligence; he that **showeth mercy**, with cheerfulness. *Let love* be without dissimulation. Abhor that which is evil; cleave to that which is good. *Be* kindly affectioned one to another with **brotherly love**; in honour preferring one another; not slothful in business; fervent in spirit; **serving** the Lord; **rejoicing** in hope; **patient** in tribulation; continuing instant in prayer; **distributing** to the necessity of saints; given to **hospitality**" (Rms. 12:4-13). Surely, all of us can find our gift/s somewhere in the boldfaced type above (emphasis mine - D.Mc.).

According to God's Word, each of us has at least one gift, talent, or ability, to offer the body of Christ. The truth is, most folks have a multiplicity of gifts, which could be used to help build up the body of Christ, if they would only put them to work for the Master. But, even if you are only a "**one talent**" man or woman, don't bury that talent in the affairs of this earth (Mt. 25:18). If you have buried it, dig it up immediately, and start using it for the cause of Christ and the good of His church. Remember, everyone has something to offer the Lord and His church (Rd. 1 Cor. 12:12-13:13). At the very least and most, everyone can practice the most excellent gift of all: **LOVE!!!**

When we, like Jesus, start practicing the will of the Father before our own, and when we let the perfect love of Christ be our example and our primary motivation, then we will truly be ready to offer the Lord something of value for the building up of the body of Christ. Until then, we are just spinning our wheels, and playing at being a Christian, and sadly, we may well be "rutting up" and destroying the precious church for which Jesus gave His life and blood.

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