

NEW CITY DAILY DEVOTIONAL FOR WEEK OF 9/7/2020-9/11/2020

The following content is based on the message on 9/6/20 at New City Church in Phoenix, AZ. It is not meant to be a full synopsis, but rather a resource to help you analyze and apply the main ideas. To use this devotional effectively, please listen to the message found at <http://newcityphx.com/sermons/>.

MONDAY // JESUS' BODY AS THE CHURCH

Read 1 Corinthians 12:12-20. This is a powerful metaphor when we begin to unpack it; when we begin to understand the ministry of Jesus. When Jesus was on earth, much of His ministry was very tangible. He went places, taught the crowds, healed the sick by His touch or His words – His very presence was a reminder of both the power and the nearness of God's Kingdom. It was a bodily presence, not some mere abstract, spiritual reality. Jesus was here, in flesh and blood, living among us. But then, He ascended to heaven and was no longer here on earth. So was His ministry on earth over? No. Jesus' plan was for the Church to become His body. We are to continue the work He started because He is the head of the Body.

Jesus' body remains on earth through the Church.

- *When you view the Church as the body of Christ, it should highlight how important it is for the Church to be the physical presence of Jesus on earth. How can the Church act like the physical presence of Jesus?*
- *Reflect on the type of life that Jesus lived when He walked on the earth. Set a timer for two minutes or so. Ask God to show you how He wants you to live like Him today.*

TUESDAY // THE HEAD OF THE BODY

Read Colossians 1:15-20. We are to be Jesus' body (i.e. His physical presence) here on earth while He is in Heaven. Jesus is the head of the Body. The Head controls the body. Jesus, the Head, has a mission. He has set the priorities. Now the body follows in obedience. Jesus is using His body to continue the ministry He started – to bring Kingdom values to earth and to minister to people in their need. Church, we are that body; and Christian, you are an important part of that body.

The head controls the body.

- *In order to properly work as the body, we must be controlled by the Head of the body. What practices do you have in your life which help you submit to Jesus?*
- *Set a timer for two minutes. Reflect on Jesus as your leader—the Head of the Church which causes the body to move.*

WEDNESDAY // EVERY ROLE IS IMPORTANT

Read 1 Corinthians 12:21-31. Some may feel like they are not important, but scripture makes it very clear that every member of Christ's body has a role/function. The roles are different, but every role is extremely important! We need them all. The church

cannot thrive without all of its members doing their part. If you are a Christian, the moment you place your faith in Jesus, the Bible says that the Holy Spirit dwells in you. The Spirit's presence results in some sort of empowerment to do ministry – the Bible calls these "spiritual gifts."

Every part of the body is important.

- *How is it tempting to view different roles as overly important or as unimportant? In what ways does Jesus make every body part feel equally important?*
- *Set a timer for two minutes. Reflect on your role in the Church. How is God calling you to change your role or how is He encouraging you within your role?*

THURSDAY // EVERY ROLE IS DIFFERENT

Read Romans 12:6-8. God has a reason for giving each of us a role to fill and the ability to fill it. Our spiritual gifts aren't primarily for our own spiritual growth. We have them so that we can build up the body, to help it do what it is supposed to do. The body is the priority. When we fulfill our roles in the church empowered by our spiritual gifts, the church grows healthier.

When we fulfill our roles in the church empowered by our spiritual gifts, we experience more joy at church.

- *What are the ways that you are involved in His Church?*
- *How are you using the gifts that God has given you? [Or] How can you discover the gifts that God has already given you?*
- *Set a timer for two minutes. Reflect on how the Church grows healthier when every member of the Church is involved.*

FRIDAY // THE BODY WORKS PROPERLY

Read Ephesians 4:11-15. We can be part of Christ's body only because we have peace with God, we have been reconciled to God by the blood of the cross. Many people find little joy in church because they are not in the game – they aren't filling their role. So, here's a plea for you to be engaged in God's mission for the good of the church and for your personal good. When you find your role in the body, you have a chance to be used by God to do things that have an eternal impact.

You have to love others in the church by serving them and meeting their needs in the way you have been gifted to do so.

- *How does "the work of ministry" give everyone opportunity to participate? Where is God calling you to participate in His mission that the Church is carrying out in the world?*
- *Set a timer for two minutes. Reflect on how the Church can be the physical presence of the love of Jesus. How does that both motivate you and encourage you?*