

KINGDOM COMMUNITY: Connected in Openness without Hurting

Why are so many Christians hurting in the church? Have you thought about that?

Why are so many Christians wounded? If we have “The Healer” as our Lord, why is this the case?

ANSWER: Christians haven't been in an open, forgiving environment that enables them to be healed, both at home and in the church system.

While ever they are wounded, hurting, resentful and unforgiving, people are puppets of the enemy, reacting to his every ploy he uses to trigger them. Lance Wallnau says: "Whatever has hooks in you, controls you."

These people need complete healing before they can be of active use in the kingdom. While ever they are manipulated by the enemy our King needs them to be healed up so they are able to hear from him 24/7 without losing focus into negativity and self-pity. Don't believe me? Read this prophetic message:

“I feel the Lord is saying His release for you will occur suddenly (as suddenly as it happened for Joseph). Be prepared for that moment by ensuring your hearts are free from an unforgiving spirit; free from holding any grudges against those who may have inflicted spiritual wounds upon you; free from the desire to retaliate against those who seem to have forced you into a spiritual dungeon.”¹

A Kingdom community must be a safe place for believers. It is to be a spiritual family where there are relationships of freedom, openness, forgiveness and love. Issues between us should be dealt with privately and quickly.

IMPORTANT: Watch for offence – it's the quickest way to get hurt and to break unity and relationship with others.

A number of people (none named²) who've connected with us over the past 2 years have been offended. Some by what I said or taught; others by our attitude towards the system church; and others wouldn't allow themselves to be reprogrammed or realigned with the Kingdom. Some didn't like us not having the Bible as the focus, and others saw us as a cult or as heretics. These people didn't enter into genuine community with us so their offence wasn't dealt with. They broke fellowship with us without anything being resolved. They will continue to be in disunity with us and will have any hurts or offences from us added to their 'pain tank'. This is most disappointing.

If we are to survive as a group, we must become a ridgy-didge³ Kingdom community, otherwise, we won't be any different to the system we've come out of – bitter, twisted, critical, and useless for the Kingdom.

An insight into our group's attitudes in this respect came when we had a discussion at Kham's home about what we all thought community was. It showed me that most of us either don't know what a Kingdom community is, or, we don't want to be part of one.

We must understand that **all believers are called to be in community**. That's the direction the Holy Spirit is taking us, and it's the direction I'm moving – no other. The main reason the church doesn't think about community like this is because it isn't a genuine focus of the teaching that is given. In fact, it's often assumed that there is community, when it's actually just a friendly gathering.

1 – Hollie Moody in 'Storm Harvest' March 2016 (us2.campaign-archive2.com/?u=80aaf11a2b19411ba4b0c8ab7&id=4cef4dafc2&e=31b1a80786)

2 – For privacy.

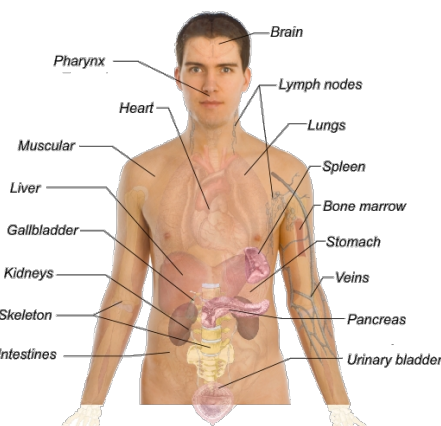
3 – Aussie colloquialism for 'genuine', 'authentic' & 'true'. (en.wiktionary.org/wiki/ridgy-didge)

Part of the problem in the Charismatic and Pentecostal groups is the biased teaching about the Body of Christ found in Corinthians. Because Paul's analogy comes prior to the outline of the ministerial gifts for the church, many teach 'the Body of Christ' from that perspective – i.e. The Body relates to ministerial function, not community. This has resulted in many Christians becoming just pew-warmers because there's a limited number of ministries that a church organisation can handle.

Take a look at the relevant section using The Living Bible to help get the impact:

1 Corinthians 12:12-30 (TLB) – *Our bodies have many parts, but the many parts make up only one body when they are all put together. So it is with the “body” of Christ. Each of us is a part of the one body of Christ. **Some of us are Jews, some are Gentiles, some are slaves, and some are free.** But the Holy Spirit has fitted us all together into one body. We have been baptized into Christ's body by the one Spirit, and have all been given that same Holy Spirit.*

Yes, the body has many parts, not just one part. If the foot says, “I am not a part of the body because I am not a hand,” that does not make it any less a part of the body. And what would you think if you heard an ear say, “I am not part of the body because I am only an ear and not an eye”? Would that make it any less a part of the body? Suppose the whole body were an eye—then how would you hear? Or if your whole body were just one big ear, how could you smell anything?



But that isn't the way God has made us. He has made many parts for our bodies and has put each part just where he wants it. What a strange thing a body would be if it had only one part! So he has made many parts, but still there is only one body.

The eye can never say to the hand, “I don't need you.” The head can't say to the feet, “I don't need you.”

And some of the parts that seem weakest and least important are really the most necessary. Yes, we are especially glad to have some parts that seem rather odd! And we carefully protect from the eyes of others those parts that should not be seen, while of course the parts that may be seen do not require this special care. So God has put the body together in such a way that extra honor and care are given to those parts that might otherwise seem less important. This makes for happiness among the parts, so that the parts have the same care for each other that they do for themselves. If one part suffers, all parts suffer with it, and if one part is honored, all the parts are glad.

Now here is what I am trying to say: All of you together are the one body of Christ, and each one of you is a separate and necessary part of it.

Here is a list of some of the parts he has placed in his Church, which is his body:

- Apostles,*
- Prophets—those who preach God's Word,*
- Teachers,*
- Those who do miracles,*
- Those who have the gift of healing;*
- Those who can help others,*
- Those who can get others to work together;*
- Those who speak in languages they have never learned.*

Is everyone an apostle? Of course not. Is everyone a preacher? No. Are all teachers? Does everyone have the power to do miracles? Can everyone heal the sick? Of course not. Does God give all of us the ability to speak in languages we've never learned? Can just anyone understand and translate what those are saying who have that gift of foreign speech? ⁴

Notice the sentences I've highlighted by making the text bold. Paul's referring there to people's ethnicity, slavery status, whether they are suffering or not, and about honouring others. This has nothing to do with ministry gifting. The remainder of the bold text is referring to the weaker and representable/private parts of the body – those components that need special attention. Again, this has nothing to do with ministry gifting.

So, the Body of Christ is an organism, according to Paul. It has many parts connected and working for the benefit of each other and of the whole. This is a system of mutualism⁵ where everyone benefits from being together and everyone has a part to play, whether ministry or not. We've missed this in the past because we've focussed too much of the 5-fold ministry gifts, etc. We haven't looked at Paul's analogy in its fullness.

Community mutualism should see everyone benefiting, including being healed and not being hurt again. However, this doesn't happen automatically – we have to make a conscience effort to bring about healing and also to prevent any further hurting or wounding. This is not easy because we haven't been taught how to do it, either in the church, society or the home.

Here's how we operate as community so that members are not wounded, but healed:

1. **Be open and transparent** – This makes you vulnerable, but it won't work any other way.
2. "Mind your P's & Q's"⁶: **Mind your own business** – You are responsible for yourself. Keep focussing on that unless the Spirit points to something about another person.
3. **Get healed** – This is the only way you won't be triggered.
4. **Stop allowing yourself to be offended** – It's your choice; every decision is your choice.
5. **Stop being critical, negative & cynical** – This drives a wedge between us.
6. **Stop offending others** – Allow the Lord to change you on the inside so you exhibit more of his character.
7. **Allow yourself to be accountable to other members** – Give them permission to challenge your speech, behaviour and attitudes.
8. **Don't put your expectations onto others** – Let them be themselves, unless they are being unrighteous or out-of-line.
9. **Be an instant forgiver** – Forgive others in your heart and mind as soon as something they do or say brings hurt or offence. Do it consciously and watch yourself change that way over time.

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5 – **Mutualism:** [1] Biological symbiosis which is beneficial to both organisms involved. [2] The doctrine that mutual dependence is necessary to social well-being. (Google)

6 – My grandmother used to say this to me. It means to watch after yourself, that you're doing the correct thing.