

**Reading:** Romans 15:1-3

**Topic:** The Function of The Healthy Body

**INTRODUCTION:** The Church which is the \_\_\_\_\_ of Christ here on earth, and each local church which also is the \_\_\_\_\_ of Christ in its area, needs to function in a manner that fosters growth in every individual in that church.

## I. THE PLAN OF GOD – THE CHURCH:

### **A. Compared To A Body:**

1. The Lord has compared His \_\_\_\_\_ to several things in the \_\_\_\_\_ of God – soldiers in an army, a garden, a flock, a building, etc. I Cor. 3:9
2. Probably the best understood comparison of the \_\_\_\_\_ is the description of it as a functioning body made up of many different \_\_\_\_\_. I Cor. 12:12-14

### **B. Every Member Necessary:**

1. Often when we give thanks for the functioning parts of our human \_\_\_\_\_, we speak of our eyes, our ears, our hands and feet, etc., which are the visible \_\_\_\_\_ that we are most conscious of.
2. However, there are many unseen parts of our functioning human \_\_\_\_\_ that we never think much about, but without them, the \_\_\_\_\_ would no longer function but would die. I Cor. 12:22
3. Our liver, kidneys, lungs, heart, glands and blood vessels are not visible to the eye, but they \_\_\_\_\_ essential functions so that the \_\_\_\_\_ will live and not die.

### **C. In The Church Body:**

1. The Church, the Body of Christ is also made up of many different kinds of \_\_\_\_\_, which are not all the same but which God has \_\_\_\_\_ and placed in His Body for a purpose. I Cor. 12:14-18
2. As with the human body, often it's the more \_\_\_\_\_ ministries that get noticed, but we must never forget that the \_\_\_\_\_ warrior is just as important as the ones who minister in public.

## II. THE FUNCTION OF THE HEALTHY BODY:

### **A. Recognizing The Various Levels:**

1. Not every member of the church \_\_\_\_\_ is at the same level spiritually and it is important to understand as the church \_\_\_\_\_, care must be given to help new ones to survive and grow. Gen. 23:12-14
2. In the teaching of Jesus, He illustrated the various \_\_\_\_\_ of spiritual growth and development in the parable of the \_\_\_\_\_ - some 30 some 60 and some 100. Mt. 13:8

### **B. Working Together To Edify The Body:**

1. The vision and goal of the healthy church \_\_\_\_\_ is to promote the things which will advance the spiritual \_\_\_\_\_ of each member of the body. Rom. 14:19
2. The Scripture paints a picture of God's plan for His healthy functioning \_\_\_\_\_ body, where every member, whether \_\_\_\_\_ or strong is contributing to the whole organism and the result is going to be a \_\_\_\_\_ and increasing church for the glory of God. Eph. 4:16

## III. GOD'S WISE INSTRUCTIONS:

**A. The Strong – Help The Weak:**

1. The Lord gave instructions to the strong and established \_\_\_\_\_ of the Body of Christ to help the weaker and struggling \_\_\_\_\_. Rom. 15:1
2. Sometimes unfortunately, the stronger spiritual \_\_\_\_\_ of the Body of Christ fall into the trap of being judgmental towards the weaker \_\_\_\_\_, expecting them to be like them. Rom. 14:1

**B. Please The Others:**

1. The will of God is for unselfishness to become the dominating characteristic in His \_\_\_\_\_, where all members seek to \_\_\_\_\_ and strengthen one another. Rom. 14:2,3
2. Sometimes people fail to see the benefits of building up someone else, not realizing that when \_\_\_\_\_ become built up and \_\_\_\_\_ it will be an asset to everyone in the \_\_\_\_\_ of Christ. I Cor. 12:24-26

**C. Everyone Benefits:**

1. The Apostle Paul wrote to the church while he was in \_\_\_\_\_ and gave some basic spiritual advice to the saints on how to produce a healthy spiritual church \_\_\_\_\_. Eph. 4:1-4
2. The elements that should be present in the function of the healthy \_\_\_\_\_:
  - a. Humility – lowliness and meekness (servant spirit)
  - b. Patience – longsuffering,
  - c. Forbearing one another – putting up with the quirks and faults of others.
  - d. Love – love overcomes differences
  - e. Unity – where there is unity, there is strength

**CONCLUSION:** God's will is for the church \_\_\_\_\_ to be strong and healthy with every member to be a contributor to the health of the \_\_\_\_\_ whether in a small or large way, and for the \_\_\_\_\_ to be continually growing both spiritually and numerically.