

*The Lord's Body*  
By Daniel Del Vecchio  
25<sup>th</sup> September 1979

1 CORINTHIANS 11:29-30

<sup>29</sup> *For he that eateth and drinketh unworthily, eateth and drinketh damnation to himself, not discerning the Lord's Body.*

<sup>30</sup> *For this cause many are weak and sickly among you, and many sleep.*

One phrase that I'd like to call your attention to in v.29, '*Not discerning the Lord's Body.*' Now there's an obvious and literal significance to these words that clearly refer to the partaking of Holy Communion, and eating and drinking of the symbols of the Lord's Body. When this is done unworthily, with sin in our lives, or bitterness in our hearts, then the results can be disastrous. However there is a deeper significance that we do not want to ignore, and that runs parallel to this other teaching, which is the obvious literal interpretation. There are two veins of life here, and I want to get the spiritual significance of what it means to 'not discern the Lord's Body'. And that is the need for the recognition of the Lord's Body, or the Body of Christ the Church.

1 CORINTHIANS 10:17

*"For we being many are one bread, and one body: for we are all partakers of that one bread."*

So we have a symbolism beyond the physical Body of Christ. He is talking about the Church, the spiritual Body of Christ. The one bread that we break not only is symbolic of the Lord's Body, it's symbolic of the unity and oneness of His Church Universal. The Apostle Paul tells us:-

EPHESIANS 1:18

<sup>18</sup> *The eyes of your understanding being enlightened; that ye may know what is the hope of His calling, and what the riches of the glory of His inheritance in the saints.*

...God has an inheritance in the saints, as we have an inheritance in Him...

EPHESIANS 1:22,23

<sup>22</sup> *And hath put all things under His feet, and gave Him to be the head over all things to the Church,*

<sup>23</sup> *Which is His Body, the fulness of Him that filleth all in all."*

---

**REMEMBER THAT THE CHURCH IS NOT LIKE HIS BODY – THE CHURCH IS HIS BODY.**

---

There are five things I want to make clear before we go forward, they are very simple but they are very important.

**1<sup>st</sup> The Church is Christ's Body.**

The Church is Christ's Body. It is His Bride and He is head of this spiritual organism.

Colossians 1:15-19

<sup>15</sup> *Who is the image of the invisible God, the first-born of every creature:*

<sup>16</sup> *For by Him were all things created, that are in heaven, and that are in earth, visible and invisible, whether they be thrones, or dominions, or principalities, or powers: all things were created by Him, and for Him:*

<sup>17</sup> *And He is before all things [before time that is], and by Him all things consist [or are held together].*

...and then this is brought right down to where we live...

<sup>18</sup> *And He is the head of the body, the Church: who is the beginning, the first-born from the dead [that's Jesus – Jesus is the first-born from the dead]; that in all things He might have the preeminence.*

<sup>19</sup> *For it pleased the Father that in Him should all fulness dwell.*

So firstly, Christ is the head of His Body, the Church. The Church is His Bride. The Church is a spiritual organism. That's basically the first point.

## EPHESIANS 2:19-22

- 19 Now therefore ye are no more strangers and foreigners, but fellow citizens with the saints, and of the household of God;*  
*20 And are built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ Himself being the chief corner stone;*  
*21 In whom all the building fitly framed together, groweth unto a holy temple in the Lord:*  
*22 In whom ye also are builded together for an habitation of God through the Spirit.*

**2<sup>nd</sup> It is Christ's building.**

For He said, "I will build My Church..." (MAT 16:18) And it is, "built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets...it is fitly framed together...and it is growing into a holy temple." (VV.20,21)

Now this is very simple, I realise that, but I want your attention because if you miss this, you're going to miss what I'm going to give you later on. This is basic and very important.

**3<sup>rd</sup> It is a living organism composed of living stones.**

It is a living organism composed of living stones or, in another symbolism, living cells. This is an extremely important point here that has ramifications that we forget, and that is that the Church without life ceases to be a Church. It is a living organism. When it has no life it is not a Church. Does that make sense to you? It becomes a human organisation, without being a living organism. It is not part of the Body of Christ. Even though it is called Christian. It is not part of the living organism if it is not indwelt by the life of Christ. And when any cell in that body, any member in that body, has no life it is not a part of the Body of Christ, whether it sits in church or not. And so it is thirdly a living organism.

**4<sup>th</sup> Its purpose is the habitation of God by the Spirit.**

## EPHESIANS 2:22

*"In whom ye also are builded together for an habitation of God through the Spirit."*

## 1 CORINTHIANS 3:16

*"Know ye not that ye are the temple of God and that the Spirit of God dwelleth in you?"*

## ROMANS 8:9

*"If any man have not the Spirit of Christ, he is none of His."*

And so it is a living organism built together for a purpose. And that purpose is that it might be the habitation of God, by the Spirit.

God's temple. God's building. God's habitation. The Body of Christ. God's habitation.

Is that clear, step upon step, stone upon stone, precept upon precept, if you've missed these things we can't go further.

So it is a multi-membered body with variety. It has diversity but its purpose is the habitation of God.

**5<sup>th</sup> It is a structured body.**

The body is clearly defined. The Church is not a mass of people that have gotten saved or born again. It is a structured organism, it is fitted together. And in our generation we are seeing visibly this church come together, as Ezekiel saw, in the vision of the dry bones. "Bones coming to bones, each bone in its proper place, and as the bones came together, flesh came upon them, he prophesied and the Spirit came upon them, and they stood upon their feet, a mighty army" (EZEK 37:7,8,10)

And now the Body of Christ has been split and divided and scattered. But God is speaking, and from the four winds, He is speaking, and He is gathering together, and He is putting together this diverse body that will be a mighty giant that is going to rise up and shake this world in this closing generation.

This Body is held together by joints and ligaments, every member is related to the head, and related to one another.

Just as the human body has to hold the head up, the Church has to constantly hold Christ up in the sense of making Him Lord and putting Him and allowing Him to function in His proper position as Head over all things to the Church. All things!

## COLOSSIANS 2:19

*"And not holding the Head from which all the Body by joints and bands, having nourishment, ministered, and knit together, increases with the increase of God."*

We'll be talking again about these joints and bands and government and how that relates to our personal lives. I'm just this week laying a foundation so that you can understand for the coming messages.

So we are put together related to the head and related to one another: There is someone over us, there is someone beside us, and there is someone under us.

It is a kingdom: It has a King, it has kingdom principles and kingdom plans, and it has been given kingdom power.

The Church is an eternal order of things that will outlast this world. Of His kingdom there shall be no end. And I, and you have thank God, become a part of this eternal kingdom that will never pass away. And the King is our Lord. And we pray, *"Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done."* (MAT 6:10)

Now to get back to our text where the Scripture says that there is a danger of not discerning the Lord's Body. I want to give you seven dangers *in not discerning the Lord's Body* – the Body of Christ.

Now we're not talking about Communion anymore, we're going to the deeper significance of this text.

***What ways do we not discern the Lord's Body?***

Well there are three ways we do not discern the Lord's Body, and I'm also going to give you seven dangers that are a result of not discerning the Lord's Body.

Three way in which we do not discern the Lord's Body,

**1) BY ADDING TO THE CHURCH WHAT GOD HAS NOT ADDED.**

The Bible tells us in the Acts of the Apostles that, *"the Lord added to the Church daily such as were being saved."* (ACTS 2:47)

The Scripture tells us, *"For by one Spirit are we all baptised into one body, whether we be Jews or Gentiles, whether we be bond or free; and have all been made to drink into one Spirit."* (1 COR 12:13)

This first refers to conversion, the second part of the Scripture refers to the baptism of the Holy Ghost. So it is the Holy Spirit that introduces us into the Body of Christ; makes us a member of this universal, multi-membered body. This is at the moment of conversion, at least that's as clear as I understand it, at this point – there are many ramifications here, so I'm going to try and make it as simple as I can.

The danger of, or shall I say what has happened in Christendom, is that they have added people, members, to churches that the Lord has never added. They haven't discerned the Body of Christ. And so you take peoples names down and put them on a church membership roll, and make them Christians by infant baptism or any form of baptism, when the Lord has not added them to the Church. That's the terrible danger of corrupting the Church of Jesus Christ. But in Acts chapter 2, there's an important Scripture:-

## ACTS 2:41

<sup>41</sup> *Then they that gladly received His Word were baptized: and the same day there were added unto them about three thousand souls.*

<sup>42</sup> *And they continued stedfastly in the apostles' doctrine and fellowship, and in breaking of bread, and in prayers.*

*"Then they that gladly received His Word were baptised..."* After they heard the gospel they were baptised. *"And the same day there were added unto them about 3000 souls. And they continued..."*

Notice five things that are important if we are to remain as members of the Body of Christ. [1<sup>st</sup>] *they were baptised.*

## MARK 16:16

*"He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved."*

[2<sup>nd</sup>] *"...they continued steadfastly in the apostles' doctrine..."* That's not anybody's doctrine that's the apostles' doctrine, and if you want to remain in the Body of Christ you'd better remain in the apostles' doctrine. [3<sup>rd</sup>] *"...they continued in fellowship..."* [4<sup>th</sup>] *"...in the breaking of bread..."* and [5<sup>th</sup>] *"...in prayer."*

**2) BY KEEPING IN THE CHURCH WHAT GOD WANTS OUT.**

So the first mistake is adding to the Church what God has not added, the second mistake is by keeping in the Church fellowship what God has put out, or judged, by allowing sin to remain unjudged in the fellowship. Turn with me to 1 Corinthians 5:11, and I'm going to take you for a trip in the Bible

**1 CORINTHIANS 5:11-13**

- <sup>11</sup> *But now I have written unto you not to keep company, if any man that is called a brother be a fornicator, or covetous, or an idolater, or a railer, or a drunkard, or an extortioner; with such an one, no not to eat.*
- <sup>12</sup> *For what have I to do to judge them also that are without? Do not ye judge them that are within?*
- <sup>13</sup> *But them that are without God judges. [That means that within the Church, the Church is to judge.] Therefore put away from among yourselves that wicked person.*

Who is he talking about? Who's that wicked person? He was talking about an individual who had committed adultery in that church, and they were allowing it to go on. And Paul writes his epistle, tells of the sin of this man, and says, 'put him out,' he later reconciled him and restored him when he repented.

So the second mistake is keeping in the Church what God wants out.

**2 THESSALONIANS 3:14**

*"And if any man obey not our word by this epistle, note that man, and have no company with him, that he may be ashamed."*

**2 THESSALONIANS 3:6**

*"Now we command you, brethren, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that ye withdraw yourselves from every brother that walketh disorderly, and not after the tradition which he received of us."*

So we are to be very careful to keep the Church clean, to not allow it to be defiled by unjudged sin or by false doctrine, or by those who create or cause division.

Now there's a Scripture in 1 Corinthians 3, concerning the defilement of the Temple of God, and when I was a boy I was taught that that meant smoking – that if you smoke you defile the Temple of God. That was the only Scripture they could find against smoking. But there are a lot of other ways you can defile the Temple of God apart from smoking, and that's drinking coffee for example, or a lot of other ways you can contaminate His Body. So he is not talking about the human body.

**1 CORINTHIANS 3:17**

*"If any man defile the temple of God, him shall God destroy..."*

Thank God, He's not going to destroy you because you smoke, He's going to deliver you! Amen.

*"If any man defile the temple of God, him shall God destroy, for the temple of God is holy, which temple ye are."*

In the context of the chapter he is talking about divisions and heresies.

**3) BY REJECTING THE MINISTRY, OR A MEMBER, THAT GOD IS SENDING.**

So number 1, we are not to add to the Church what God has not added. Number 2, we are not to keep in fellowship what God has commanded that we reject. And number 3, the danger of not discerning the Lord's Body, is by rejecting the ministry or a member that God is sending by excommunicating a member that God has sent to the body, by rejecting, accusing or criticising, or cutting off from your mind and heart a member of the body that God doesn't want cut off.

This is not discerning the Lord's Body. And this ignorance of the oneness of the Body of Christ causes much havoc within the Body. Because one man does not happen to be from my organisation, or my denomination, he is excommunicated and ostracised. This a very dangerous. We must recognise the Body of Christ worldwide and what the Lord is doing in His Church. Now there are seven dangers listed, in not discerning the Lord's Body.

*Seven dangers of not discerning the Lord's Body.*

I gave you three ways how we don't discern the Lord's Body, now seven dangers when we don't discern the Lord's Body. The first is the obvious one, and that is the danger of being chasten by sickness

**1) THE DANGER OF BEING CHASTISED BY SICKNESS****1 CORINTHIANS 11:30**

*"For this cause many are weak and sickly among you, and many sleep."*

Now sickly refers to physical sickness, the other two refer to spiritual sleep and spiritual weakness, which

eventually puts a person into a coma. And this coma is the result of rejecting light. By becoming dull of hearing, we go deaf. By closing our eyes, we go blind. And so, by not discerning the Lord's Body by criticising, accusing or cutting off of these other sins, or rejecting light, the person is either chastised by sickness, or he becomes weak spiritually, and eventually that weakness goes into a coma. And they go into church week after week but they are asleep, totally asleep. The Bible says,

**EPHESIANS 5:14**

*"Awake thou that sleepest... and Christ shall give thee light."*

So it is light that wakes people up. Now when you reject light you go to sleep, and the second sleep is worse than the first. The first sleep is a sleep of ignorance, the second sleep is a sleep of hardening the heart. There are three progressive categories in the rejection of light. The first is total rejection of light, which leaves us in total darkness. Rejecting light is the same as rejecting headship or government.

Now if a person rejects government or headship, and says, "I'm going to do what I feel like. I'm going to follow God as I please." His heart becomes dark, and where there is darkness there is the power of Satan, and deception controls. That person can easily be deceived.

So the first area is rejected light: total rejection, total blackness. The second area is ignorance of light. This is a Christian who is in partial light, he doesn't have much, it's just not dark and not light. And the third condition is when a person is under submission to the Lordship of Christ. He has accepted the Word, he's opened his heart to the Word and he's bowed his head to Divine government. Light pours in and to the degree of light there will be power. Light is an armour, light is power, light is the prime source of power.

I don't want to make you tired but this is so important, that of course many of you are not able to grasp it because you're young in the Lord but get it down, someday it will do you good.

So the first danger is the danger of being chastised by sickness, falling into weakness, or spiritual coma.

## **2) THE POSSIBILITY OF IMMATURITY OR SPIRITUAL STAGNATION.**

**EPHESIANS 4:11-13**

- <sup>11</sup> *And He gave some, apostles; and some, prophets; and some, evangelists; and some, pastors and teachers;*
- <sup>12</sup> *For the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the Body of Christ:*
- <sup>13</sup> *Till we all come in the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, unto a perfect man, unto the measure of the stature of the fulness of Christ.*

By not understanding the five gift ministries - by not accepting ministries that God has placed in the Church - we have the danger of immaturity. That these believers never grow up into the unity of the faith. They never grow up into spiritual maturity because there are areas of ministry that have never been given to them and, apart from the full counsel of God, they remain immature.

## **3) THE DANGER OF UNDERNOURISHMENT.**

**1 CORINTHIANS 12:14-27**

- <sup>14</sup> *For the body is not one member, but many.*
- <sup>15</sup> *If the foot shall say, "Because I am not the hand, I am not of the body," is it therefore not of the body?*
- <sup>16</sup> *And if the ear shall say, "Because I am not the eye, I am not of the body," is it therefore not of the body?*
- <sup>17</sup> *If the whole body were an eye, where were the hearing? If the whole were hearing, where were the smelling?*
- <sup>18</sup> *But now hath God set the members every one of them in the body, as it hath pleased Him.*
- <sup>19</sup> *And if they were all one member, where were the body?*
- <sup>20</sup> *But now are they many members, yet but one body.*
- <sup>21</sup> *And the eye cannot say unto the hand, "I have no need of thee," nor again the head to the feet, "I have no need of you."*
- <sup>22</sup> *Nay, much more those members of the body, which seem to be more feeble, are necessary:*
- <sup>23</sup> *And those members of the body, which we think to be less honourable, upon these we bestow more abundant honour; and our uncomely parts have more abundant comeliness.*
- <sup>24</sup> *For our comely parts have no need: but God hath tempered the body together, having given more abundant honour to that part which lacked:*
- <sup>25</sup> *That there should be no schism in the body; but that the members should have the same care one for another.*

<sup>26</sup> *And whether one member suffer, all the members suffer with it; or one member be honoured, all the members rejoice with it.*

<sup>27</sup> *Now ye are the Body of Christ, and members in particular.*

Recognising the Body of Christ results in care one for another. We look after one another when we recognise that we need one another, that we are not complete without the other. That we cannot say, "I don't need you because you are not of the same importance as I." Or those of lesser importance cannot say, "I don't belong because I am not a vocal part of the Body." God says the Body is so structured that we depend mutually one upon another, and this way we can care for one another, look after one another because we are discerning the Lord's Body. If we don't discern the Lord's Body, we're going to look out for number one and say, "forget you, I don't care about you." But when you discern the Lord's Body you realise that if that member is suffering, then I'm suffering. Not that he's supposed to suffer but that he does suffer. And automatically, "one member is honoured all the members rejoice," (v.25) because that Body is put together. If a cell dies it's passed from the body. If a person goes on to be with the Lord, he is still part of the Universal Church, but if he dies spiritually he's expelled from the body, and the body remains a living organism.

So I gave you three reasons, 1) the danger of being chastened, 2) the danger or possibility of immaturity, not growing up, into the place of maturity and 3) the undernourishment.

#### **4) THE DANGER OF IMBALANCE.**

In many churches there is an imbalance. There is not a doctrinal stability. The stones have not been laid properly. There are six foundation stones. You know of them right? (Hebrew 6:1 onward.)

Now unless these six foundation stones are laid properly – the apostles' doctrine is laid properly – you'll find the church imbalanced. And if it's imbalanced it can lose its equilibrium and fall. And many churches have an emphasis on one particular thing. It may be healing. It may be some charismatic gift. It may be eternal security. Or it may be water baptism. All the emphasis is on one particular phase, which leaves an imbalance in the church.

When we recognise the Body of Christ and the many ministries, we open our hearts to the apostolic and prophetic ministries, which lays the foundation. You cut off these two ministries and the foundation is going to be very weak. Because it is basically through the apostolic revelation, that doctrine is revealed to the church, and a church that is not under some apostolic government, or open to some apostolic teaching, is going to be imbalanced. It is built upon apostles and prophets, it was then, as they gave us the revelation of the Word. But that Word has to be preached again through apostles and prophets, to lay a foundation today for the local church, so that church can have a balance, otherwise it's cockeyed, off balance and may fall. And the believers will have dark areas of their lives, they won't be completely fitted and grown-up and mature. They're going to be unbalanced. They're going to be talking the same thing over and over and over, and that's as far as they're going to go. But if the five ministries are operating – particularly the first two – then the foundation is laid, and the structure can go on. Hallelujah!

#### **5) THE DANGER OF LOSING NEW SOULS BECAUSE OF THE LACK OF STRUCTURE.**

If we have a vintage, a grape vintage, and we make wine and we're crushing the grapes, and wine is pouring out on the ground. We can say what a wonderful vintage! What a wonderful harvest we've got! And keep on crushing grapes, and wine running down the street. This is what happens: many of you are new, you don't know the harvest is lost. The harvest is lost because there's no structure to hold it. New souls are lost because there's no structure in the Church to hold it. There's no teaching. There's no discipleship. There's no counselling. Everybody does what he feels like, and so he goes to church on Sunday – that is a curse! That is a curse! You can't go to church – we are the Church! We gather in a building.

Without this spiritual structure so many souls have either been undernourished, imbalanced, lost completely, gone into spiritual coma, and fallen prey to the Devil because there's no government, no structure, no headship. Not the recognition of someone over them. Everybody does what is right in his own eyes, and if he doesn't like what the pastor says or what the Church says, well then he goes to another church where he likes it better. What a curse to the Church of Jesus Christ! It's a wonder it's still alive considering the mess we've made of Christianity.

Oh my dear ones, I've been awake since 2 o'clock this morning, with the Lord speaking to me about these things. It may not mean a lot to you but if you've lived 37 years in the Christian Faith, and seen thousands of souls lost. Great evangelists lost! Great teachers lost! All the wine pouring down the street! Your heart would groan like mine for a structure. We need a structure. It's not just a mass of people, it's a formed body. And that Body is to follow the Biblical pattern exactly.

God told Moses, "you follow the pattern." He was to build a temple in the wilderness, and he had to do it exactly like God showed him. And so do we! We have a pattern, we have the New Testament, the Epistles,

which delineate the doctrines. We have the Acts of the Apostles, which show us how it was done in the first century. We have to go back and study that!

## **6) THE POSSIBILITY OR DANGER OF FALSE DOCTRINES COMING IN.**

The sixth danger of not discerning the Lord's Body, is the possibility or danger of false doctrines coming in. Go back to Ephesians 4 again with me please, verse 14. This is the danger of false doctrines entering in.

EPHESIANS 4:14-16

<sup>14</sup> *That we henceforth be no more children, tossed to and fro, and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the sleight of men, and cunning craftiness, whereby they lie in wait to deceive;*

<sup>15</sup> *But speaking the truth in love, may grow up into Him in all things, which is the head even Christ:*

<sup>16</sup> *From whom the whole body fitly joined together and compacted by that which every joint supplieth.*

We'll be talking about this, Lord willing, in the future. That every joint has to supply something, according to the effectual working in the measure of every part, making increase of the body under the edifying of itself in love.

So what happens when the Church does not have all the ministries working. When the apostolic teachings are not laid. The Bible says that they are "like children...carried about with every wind of doctrine." (v.14)

Now when I travel a little bit this is what I see, children. Anybody comes along with any kind of story, with some kind of vision, some kind of appeal and vroom they're off! And the weirder the thing, the more ridiculous the doctrine, the more people will follow it. The bigger the lie, the more people will follow it. And they make merchandise of Christians, and fleece them, because they're such babes they cannot discern.

I walked into a meeting of one of the big evangelists in the United States a few years ago. A man who at that time was making a million dollars a year, under no government, under no headship, did anything he wanted. The moment I walked in - I sat down at a place for a matter of one or two minutes - I had to run out. I had discerned immediately he was out of order.

I went into another meeting, one of the greatest evangelist that thousands were following -- nationwide television ministry. I walked into that building and within a matter of minutes I felt I had to run out. Thousands followed, millions followed them! Blind! One has now been given 10 or 15 years in prison, and the other dropped dead under the judgement of God. And yet the people did not recognise that.

If they were mature, the moment you walk into a church where there's deception, where the doctrine is off, you'll sit down and hear three minutes and you know if it's right or wrong. A mature person can tell instantly. Now to be mature you have to have these teachings. You have to listen. You have to learn. You have to grow. You have to hear the Word of the Lord. Then you'll be mature, and then nobody will fool you. Amen, Hallelujah!

So there is a danger of false doctrines because they are children. They are not protected by a covering. churches that are not protected by a covering are in danger of false doctrines.

This is my burden for this nation that God has laid heavily upon me. That the Lord may send me to the four corners of the nation, lay apostolic foundations and in a way that God allows to cover and protect these Churches from false doctrines, and from deceptions, because the shepherd is to protect the sheep.

## **7) DEVELOPING OR CREATING A FALSE STRUCTURE OR A CARNAL ORGANISATION.**

The danger of not discerning the Lord's Body is, that we develop or create a false structure, or a carnal organisation. Something that needs to be created because of convenience, because of function, because of finances, because of legal situations.

A Church has to be organised because of legal demands, because of financial reasons, and so huge organisations are developed under the guise of missionary programs, which are not spiritual structures. They are organisations, they are financial organisations. They are controlled from some centre, in some affluent nation, that sends money. And for convenience sake there is a structure because you have to have some organisation. If you don't have the spiritual, you create a human.

So these missionary groups or organisations, are in many cases not spiritual structures. They are organisations that are functioning the best they can, with what they've got to work with.

And I was with a group for many years. Every year we had our political meetings, just like the Democrat's and the Republicans. We had our political voting, our democracy, and they voted for their Superintendent. And year after year the same superintendent was voted in. He shouted louder than anybody else, he made more noise than anybody else, so he became the general superintendent of the whole movement. But he was

authentically an evangelist, not an apostle. And so he would go into a church that was having a split. There would be two splits when he got there, there would be four when he left!

On one occasion they took him by his shirt, ripped his shirt and threw him out of the door, bodily. That's the peace he brought in that church! 37 years I've seen things. An evangelist General Overseer – it cannot be! He was a great evangelist, a wonderful man, where he belonged. A pastor belongs as a pastor, a teacher belongs as a teacher, an apostle belongs as an apostle, a prophet belongs as a prophet, and in their ministry they function. Recognising the Body of Christ. Recognising the gift. Then we can say "yes, that man has that gift." I will obey or put him in that particular place. But not recognising the Lord's provision, we make our own and a guy who makes a lot of friends - or has a nice smile and knows how to polish apples - he climbs the ladder. And he climbs the ladder, he begins as a Pastor in a small church, and he smiles his way right up to the top. You think I'm being ironic, I'm just laying the foundation and showing you what is not to be and showing you that God does have a spiritual structure. He hasn't left it up to us. It's up to us to follow the pattern.

We pray "*Thy Kingdom come, Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven.*" That means in heaven there is an order. There is a structure. There is government. There is harmony. There is headship. There is total obedience. God is supreme. And God has given Jesus Christ to be head over all things, which is the Church.

He's given the Holy Spirit to teach us. And He's given ministries which we'll be talking about in future studies of how this actually functions, and how it can function in the world today – on an international basis, on a national basis, on a regional basis, and on a local basis, God has planned a worldwide Kingdom. And He's going to show this world how it's done. And we're getting ready. We're being planned and nurtured and trained to reign with Him. But we begin right now within the Body of Christ. As with relating to Him and relating with one to another He is training us for Kingdom living, when we live on earth for a thousand years. Can you see the whole picture? How important it is to learn to function where God puts you. It'll take a while. God has to take you and fix you and mould you. But remember, there's somebody over you, there's somebody under you, and there's somebody beside you. There's a little air space between each molecule, there's a little freedom, but you're surrounded by other members of the Body of Christ.

So the structure is there. Let us fit into it. Let us function where God puts us. In our appointed place and in our correct role. May the Lord add His blessing to the hearts of the Church. Shall we just bow our hearts in prayer.

*Heavenly Father, we give You thanks this morning that You haven't left us to our own devices, or our own inventions. That You have a plan for us. That You have a place for every believer, geographically, spiritually, and You are causing us now to grow up into that place. Help us to be patient while we grow. Help us to have faith that the place You have placed us is the proper place for us. Forgive us Lord, for our rebellion when we want to be something else that we're not, do something that we're not called to do. Teach us Lord, that You are the Head. That You know best and you place the bodies of each member in the Body, as it pleases You. We thank You Lord. You know what You are doing. Help us Lord, to understand what You are doing, and to work with You in forming this great structure of the Church of Jesus Christ on earth. Give us all Lord, a Spirit of wisdom and revelation and a knowledge of Christ that these words may be echoing in our hearts. And prepare us for our years as Christians to come. Thank you Father. In Jesus' Name. Amen.*