

**Discipleship**  
**Assignment for Appointment #11**  
**Body Life**

- Read 1 Corinthians 12-14 and the books of 1 Timothy and Titus as outlined below:
  - 1<sup>st</sup> Day: The Body of Christ - 1 Corinthians 12
  - 2<sup>nd</sup> Day: Love & Order in the Body - 1 Corinthians 13-14
  - 3<sup>rd</sup> Day: False Doctrine & Worship - 1 Timothy 1 & 2
  - 4<sup>th</sup> Day: Leadership Qualifications - 1 Timothy 3 & Titus 1
  - 5<sup>th</sup> Day: Apostasy & Responsibilities of Ministers - 1 Timothy 4; 1 Peter 5:1-5
  - 6<sup>th</sup> Day: Widows & Elders - 1 Timothy 5 & 6
  - 7<sup>th</sup> Day: Godly Living Within & Without the Body - Titus 2 & 3
  
- Read and complete the lesson on Body Life
  
- Memorize Ephesians 4:11-12; 2 Corinthians 9:6-7
  
- Take notes on Pastor's Sunday Sermon

**DISCIPLESHIP  
APPOINTMENT # 11  
BODY LIFE**

(A supplement produced by Grace Bible Church, Wappingers Falls, NY)

**The Church, The Body of Christ**

One of the metaphors used to describe the church is the body of Christ (Romans 12:3-8; 1 Corinthians 12; Ephesians 4:1-16). The head of the body is Jesus Christ (Colossians 1:18) and believers are the members of the rest of the body. This analogy is very descriptive of the unity that is necessary among believers. We are all dependent upon one another. Discipleship Lesson #6 on Fellowship describes the responsibilities that Christians have in keeping all the “one another” commands. The body analogy also stresses the fact that each of us by God’s design are different from one another, and that in working together the whole body grows and builds itself in love.

According to 1 Corinthians 12:4-7 what is the source of each of the following:

Your spiritual gift? \_\_\_\_\_

Your particular ministry? \_\_\_\_\_

The “effect” or size & scope of your ministry? \_\_\_\_\_

According to 1 Corinthians 12:7, what is purpose of all spiritual gifts?

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Ephesians 4:1-7 describes our common beliefs as the element that holds the body together - there is one body, one Spirit, one hope, one Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God and Father. There cannot be unity with those that do not hold those common beliefs. As Amos 3:3 states it, “*Can two walk together, except they be agreed?*” This is one reason why there is division among those who claim to be Christians. There are many whose claims are false because they have a different Jesus, a different baptism, a different faith, or a different hope than what is described in the Bible. What are some legitimate reasons to separate yourself from someone that claims to be a Christian?

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Ephesians 4:2, 15 and 1 Corinthians 13 describes the means by which the various parts of the body are to work together in harmony without friction. It is love with its corresponding attributes of humility, gentleness, patience and forbearance. This is the second reason why there are divisions among those who claim to be Christians. There are those who have correct doctrine, but their love has grown cold so that they become proud, arrogant, harsh and demanding of their own way.

How can practicing these qualities of love in 1 Corinthians 13:4-8 make it easier for others to get along with you? For you to get along with others?

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**Church Structure**

Another metaphor used for the church is that it is the flock of God and Jesus is its Chief Shepherd (1 Peter 5:4). Christ has gifted some within the body with the gifts necessary to be

“undershepherds” within the church. These leaders have to meet particular qualifications of spiritual maturity, have particular spiritual gifts and are given specific responsibilities in shepherding the church.

Ephesians 4:11-12 explains that God gave to the church gifted people who fulfilled four different offices that would *“equip the saints for the work of service, to the building up of the body of Christ.”* Two of these offices, Apostles and Prophets, laid the foundation upon which the rest of the church is built (Ephesians 2:20). The other two offices, evangelists and pastor/teachers minister in building the rest of the church upon that foundation. The evangelist has a primary responsibility in teaching believers how to proclaim the gospel to others. The pastor/teachers have primary responsibility in shepherding the people and teaching them the Word of God so that the people might live according to it.

According to Ephesians 4:11-16, who does the work of ministry & what is it?

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There are several titles used for the pastor/teacher of Ephesians 4:11. These include elder or presbyter (Titus 1:5; 1 Peter 5:1) which emphasize his office; bishop or overseer (Acts 20:28; Titus 1:7) which emphasize his responsibility; and pastor or shepherd (Acts 20:28; 1 Peter 5:2) which emphasize his duties. These terms can be used interchangeably, though some churches do make non-Biblical distinctions.

The qualifications for those holding this office are listed in 1 Timothy 3:1-7 and Titus 1:5-9. All of the qualifications except being *“able to teach”* and *“able to exhort in sound doctrine and to refute those who contradict”* are characteristics of spiritual maturity. Leaders in the church need to be spiritually mature.

The specific responsibilities of a Pastor / Elder / Bishop include *“equipping the saints for the work of ministry”* (Ephesians 4:11-12), *“shepherd the flock of God among you exercising oversight”* and *“proving to be examples to the flock”* (1 Peter 5:2,3), *“preach the word; be ready in season and out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort, with great patience and instruction”* (2 Timothy 4:2), *“to exhort in sound doctrine and to refute those who contradict”* (Titus 1:9) and be on the alert to protect the flock from the wolves that would seek to come in to destroy and draw away disciples after themselves (Acts 20:28-31). A pastor is only fulfilling his God given responsibilities if he talks to you about something you may be doing that is wrong or shows a lack of spiritual maturity. Be thankful for God’s intervention in your life through him when he does this instead of becoming upset and complaining.

There are also responsibilities that the flock has toward those who shepherd them. State what they are in your own words as you consider the verses below:

1 Thessalonians 5:12-13 \_\_\_\_\_

1 Timothy 5:17-18 \_\_\_\_\_

Hebrews 13:17 \_\_\_\_\_

There are two other specific offices mentioned in the Scriptures, Deacon and Deaconess (Deacons’s wives in some churches). Both of these are positions of service. Neither has any specific Biblical responsibilities assigned to them. They serve the rest of the body as directed by the pastor(s) / elder(s) of the church. They must meet specific qualifications of spiritual maturity listed in 1 Timothy 3:8-12.

Examine the qualifications listed in 1 Timothy 3:8-12 and consider one or two areas in which you would like to improve and become more mature. List them below and then talk with your discipler about ways in which you can further your spiritual development in those areas:

Areas to improve: \_\_\_\_\_

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Plan of action to make improvements: \_\_\_\_\_

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### **Church Responsibilities**

There are many Biblical responsibilities that belong to those who are part of the body of Christ, the church. There are all the “one another” commands as discussed in Lesson #6 on Fellowship. Since the “one another” commands cannot be carried out by hermits, the Christian must not neglect meeting together with other believers (Hebrews 10:24-25). We need one another in order to mature to the full measure of Christ and to protect one another from heresy, our own sin and other dangers that come against us (Ephesians 4:11-16). We must be using the gifts God has given us in serving one another (1 Peter 4:10). We also have responsibilities toward those outside the church in walking in a holy manner so that Christ is glorified (Matthew 5:16; 1 Peter 2:12) and in seeking their salvation as explained in Lesson #7 on Witnessing

One responsibility that is often misunderstood is giving to the Lord’s work, so additional time will devoted to explaining it.

- 1) The Bible Talks a Lot about Money. Sixteen out of Jesus’ thirty-eight parables deal with money. There are over 2,000 verses that deal with money and possessions. The reason is that what you do with your money reveals a lot about your character, priorities and passions.
- 2) God Does Not Need Your Money. God is completely self-sufficient. He is not impressed with your wealth nor do we do God a favor by giving something to the church or any ministry. Why then give? A.W. Tozer put it well saying, “*the blessed news is that the God who needs no one has in sovereign condescension stooped to work by and in and through His obedient children.*” God has chosen to use His people to accomplish His will on earth and it is a privilege to serve Him. We give in order to be part of His work and receive His blessings.

- 3) God Wants You to Have Financial Peace.

Read Matthew 6:19-34

What does God want you to seek first? \_\_\_\_\_

What does He promise if you do? \_\_\_\_\_

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We can have God’s peace when we trust Him to answer our prayers and meet our needs (Isaiah 26:3; Philippians 4:6,7).

- 4) You are a Steward. The reality is that you do not “own” anything. You are simply the caretaker of what God entrusts to you for the few years you live on this earth. In the end you will have to give an account to Him of how you used what He entrusted to you (See the Parable of the Talents - Matthew 25:14-30). This means that ultimately all your financial decisions do have a spiritual dimension to them.

How does being a steward change your view of the use of your finances and what you have?

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- 5) Old Testament Tithing. This was actually a system of tithes and was the tax system on Israel that supported both the Temple, the Levites and the relief of the poor. The total estimates of tithes and taxes for the Israelites range from 24 - 35%. This amount increased when Israel set

a king over themselves. It is important to note that the Church is not Israel and that the tithing commands are not repeated in the New Testament to the church.

- 6) New Testament Giving. 2 Corinthians 9:6-15 is the most definitive passage that explains the principles of New Testament giving. Verses 6 & 7 states “*Now this [I say,] he who sows sparingly shall also reap sparingly; and he who sows bountifully shall also reap bountifully. Let each one [do] just as he has purposed in his heart; not grudgingly or under compulsion; for God loves a cheerful giver.*” Every believer is to give cheerfully as they are led by God. The closest Old Testament equivalent to this are the freewill offerings such as in Exodus 25:2; 35:5,21.

What would be the dangers for a Christian to hold to a strict tithing? \_\_\_\_\_  
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- 7) Godly Examples. The first principle of godly giving is that God is to be considered first even with your finances. Proverbs 3:9-10 states it this way, “*Honor the Lord from your wealth, And from the first of all your produce; So your barns will be filled with plenty, And your vats will overflow with new wine.*” Paul directed the Corinthians church to make their collection “*on the first day of every week*” as each had put aside and saved as he may have prospered (1 Corinthians 16:2).

How much did each of the following people give?

Abraham - Genesis 14:17-20 \_\_\_\_\_

Zaccheus - Luke 19::8-9 \_\_\_\_\_

The widow - Luke 21:1-4 \_\_\_\_\_

It is important to note that in all three of these examples that giving was not required, but given freely.

Spend time in prayer and decide what God would have you do in giving towards His work. Then plan on giving it.

For more information, see *Giving to the Lord's Work* located in the church literature rack or request the sermon series on *The Bible & Finances* from the church office.

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Congratulations! You have completed the *One to One Discipling Course*

Talk to your discipler about what you should do next in growing in your knowledge of our Lord and in your walk with Him. With your discipler's help, list out the options below so that you can pray about them and then take your next step.

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