

“EVERY PART DOES ITS SHARE”

Ephesians 4:11-16

There must be no inactive members in the body of Christ.

I. THE ROLES WILL BE DIFFERENT

A. 1st Corinthians 12:12-30

Just as hands are not eyes, eyes are not ears, and ears are not noses, so not every member in the body of Christ is an apostle or prophet, a preacher or teacher, an elder or deacon. Yet, even what is considered less presentable is held in honor because it contributes to the health of the body.

B. Numbers 16:1-11, 25-33; Hebrews 7:14; 8:4

Some offices in the church demand certain qualifications – like apostle (**Acts 1:21-26**), elder (**Titus 1:5-9**), and deacon (**1st Timothy 3:8-13**) – and when God sets forth qualifications, they are to be taken seriously. One who lacks the requisite characteristics or experience cannot be entrusted with the duty of the role.

C. 1st Peter 1:1; 5:1

Some members will be able to fill more than one position. Peter was both apostle and elder, and there are some preachers who are also deacons or elders. That is good, but it is unusual and need not be expected as ordinary.

II. SOME ROLES RELIEVE OTHERS FROM DISTRACTIONS

A. Exodus 18:13-26

Jethro recognized that Moses would be overwhelmed doing all the work himself, so he counseled him to delegate authority to other capable men.

B. Acts 6:1-7

The apostles did not consider the daily care of the widows in the church unimportant, but they understood other responsible Christians could handle that duty so they wouldn't have to *"leave the word of God."*

C. Acts 13:1-5

When the prophets Barnabas and Saul were sent out by the Holy Spirit to preach, they brought along an *"assistant."* We don't often think of *"assistant"* as a specific job in the body of Christ, but we should readily recognize how useful that would be – someone who could book passage on a ship, secure lodging, get food, and accomplish other necessary but mundane tasks that would take Saul and Barnabas away from preaching and teaching.

D. 1st Timothy 3:1-13

There is a reason each church should have elders and deacons – elders to oversee the flock of God and deacons to carry out other assignments that are important but would distract the shepherds from their primary duty.

III. EACH ROLE OUGHT TO BE DONE TO THE FULLEST

A. Romans 12:3-8

Abilities will vary; some lead while others serve (minister) and some will exhort while others give. Regardless, whatever the ability is, it must be fully applied.

B. 1st Peter 4:10-11

Whether speakers or servants, we must be proper stewards of our various gifts.

C. Matthew 25:14-30

We will not all be five-talent workers. It's perfectly fine with the Lord to be a two-talent worker. Just don't be a one-talent waste.