

1 Corinthians 12:26

And if one member suffers, all the members suffer with it; or if one member is honored, all the members rejoice with it.

A couple days ago, my two teenage boys went to the park to play catch with a football. Within about fifteen minutes or so, they came back and came into my office stating that they had to quit early because my younger son (16) broke his foot. Well, I checked it out, and it wasn't broke, he just twisted his ankle and even though we put ice, and an ankle brace on it, he has to deal with the pain for a week or so.

But that same night as we had dinner (Yes we eat dinner at the table, together as a family every night), it was his turn to pray, and part of his prayer was, *"Thank you Lord that I hurt my ankle, it reminds me how much I need it and take it for granted that I have a healthy body."* Wow, for a 16 year old kid to pray that is awesome, even if an adult would pray that it would be awesome. But how much of it is so true, and is actually part of today's verse. ***And if one member suffers, all the members suffer with it.***

I mean, the poor guy is hopping around (his bedroom is upstairs) and moves a lot slower because of the pain he is feeling, and you know if you ever hurt your foot, ankle, leg, or even stub your toe (OUCH!!!) pain shoots through your entire body when that happens, and why? Because your entire body is one unit, so each part looks out for each other.

- Your eyes look and warns the rest of the body if it sees anything that could harm it.
- The ears listens to sounds and warns the entire body if it hears something that is in the path that could hurt it. (Train, car etc...)
- Our nose smells things that would tell it to watch out, because it knows that smell, and it can hurt you (like fire, acid etc...).
- Even our tongue will warn us when we put something into our mouth that is not good for the body.
- Our feet can step on things and feel pain telling us not to go any further because that hurts, and that pain goes from your foot, up your entire body to the top of your head where your brain is and the entire body does everything to stop before it from really getting hurt.

Most of you know that I am a musician and I play keyboards. Well I have always wanted to learn guitar, and every time I try, it hurt my fingers, so much so that it makes it hard to play piano. I either need to fight through this pain, to expand the way I worship the Lord, or just stick to the keyboard. But once again, the pain in my fingers affect my entire body, and even my worship.

But when I think about it, we should stop and ask ourselves how in tune we are with the body of Christ (the church). Yes the entire body (The big CHURCH) but also the smaller body, which would be the church we attend. If one of the members is hurting or is about to get hurt (Physically, emotionally or spiritually) is our church family so in tune with one another that the entire body feels it and knows about it? I'm not talking gossip here, but rather, how the body functions. Would it be off because of a stubbed toe, or sprained ankle, or a splinter in a finger, or a heart attack, or a cancer that has infested the church.

I remember several years ago at a church I was going to, the pastor admitted that he had, had several adulterous affairs and stepped down and left the church. Now this was a mega church, and when this happened, not only did the church know, but the entire CHURCH knew about it throughout the world.

Or what about when pastor Billy Graham and pastor Chuck Smith went to heaven, the entire CHURCH throughout the world knew about it.

But what about the widow woman in your church who spent hours everyday praying at home in her prayer closet for the church, got sick or even died. Did the church know? Or what about the guy who could barely afford to give twenty bucks a paycheck every couple a weeks, because it was his ten percent, and he gave to the Lord faithfully even though he hardly made it each week, living paycheck to paycheck, but now he has lost his job. Does the church feel it or know about him losing his job?

Sad to say, unless someone is doing those seen or known jobs, they are not noticed if something happens to him or her. But the bible says.

† **1 Corinthians 12:22 (NLT2)** *In fact, some parts of the body that seem weakest and least important are actually the most necessary.*

A widow woman praying, and man giving all that he could, even though to others it may have seemed like a few mites, they are actually the most necessary, because they do it from the heart, not out of obligation. Therefore, *All of you together are Christ's body, and each of you is a part of it.* **1 Corinthians 12:27 (NLT2)**

So I ask you and even myself the same question. If someone in the body (the church we attend) get hurts or there is a problem with them, would you know about it? Once again, not from gossip, but would you only know because they are what we would call "Somebody" in the church (Pastor, elder, worship leader, etc...) but if its was anyone else in the church, you don't have time to be bothered with them and wouldn't even know, unless that "Somebody" in the church told you.

† **1 Corinthians 12:25 (NLT2)** *This makes for harmony among the members, so that all the members care for each other.*

† **James 2:2-4** *For if there should come into your assembly a man with gold rings, in fine apparel, and there should also come in a poor man in filthy clothes, and you pay attention to the one wearing the fine clothes and say to him, "You sit here in a good place," and say to the poor man, "You stand there," or, "Sit here at my footstool," have you not shown partiality among yourselves, and become judges with evil thoughts?*