



1



2

Disciples of Christ are:
Anointed to be Ambassadors as Alien / Associates
 showing and telling **the Gospel of God's Grace** to the world.

Disciples are shaped by:

- **Ethos** - rooted in God's Kingdom, not the world's
- **Empathy** - sharing the love and grace of God
- **Expectations** - based on kingdom values
- **Environment** - community influence

Body of Christ
Unity with Diversity
Family - Team
Kingdom

3

The O.C. commandment is focused on community - Love of God and NEIGHBOR.

Matthew 22

“³⁷ ... ‘You shall **love** the Lord your **God** with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind.’ ³⁸ This is the great and foremost commandment. ³⁹ The second is like it, ‘You shall **love** your **neighbor** as yourself.’”

Matthew 25:40

“to the extent that **you did it (love)** to **one of these brothers of Mine**, even the least of them, **you did it to Me.**”

The N.C. community is focused on Love of God and ONE ANOTHER.

1 John 3:11

“For this is the message which you have **heard from the beginning**, that we should **love one another**,”

1 John 4:21

“the one who **loves God** should love his **brother** also.”

4

love **one another** (John 13:35 - this command comes 16 times)
 be devoted to **one another** (Romans 12:10)
 honour **one another** above yourselves (Romans 12:10)
 live in harmony with **one another** (Romans 12:16)
 build up **one another** (Romans 14:19; 1 Thessalonians 5:11)
 be likeminded towards **one another** (Romans 15:5)
 accept **one another** (Romans 15:7)
 admonish **one another** (Romans 15:14; Colossians 3:16)
 care for **one another** (1 Corinthians 12:25)
 serve **one another** (Galatians 5:13)
 bear **one another's** burdens (Galatians 6:2)
 forgive **one another** (Ephesians 4:2; Colossians 3:13)
 be patient with **one another** (Ephesians 4:2; Colossians 3:13)
 be kind and compassionate to **one another** (Ephesians 4:32)
 speak to **one another** with psalms, hymns and spiritual songs (Ephesians 5:19)
 submit to **one another** (Ephesians 5:21, 1 Peter 5:5)
 consider **others** better than yourselves (Philippians 2:3)
 look to the interests of **one another** (Philippians 2:4)
 bear with **one another** (Colossians 3:13)
 teach **one another** (Colossians 3:16)
 comfort **one another** (1 Thessalonians 4:18)
 encourage **one another** (Hebrews 3:13)
 stir up **one another** to love and good works (Hebrews 10:24)
 show hospitality to **one another** (1 Peter 4:9)
 employ the gifts ... for the benefit of **one another** (1 Peter 4:10)
 clothe yourselves with humility towards **one another** (1 Peter 5:5)
 pray for **one another** (James 5:16)
 confess our faults to **one another** (James 5:16)

Ministering with and to one another is not a distraction from the main thing, it is a part of the MAIN THING.

5

Christians are united with God “in Christ”.

Body / Head
(1 Corinthians 12:27)

Bride / Groom
(Ephesians 5:22-32)

Building / Cornerstone
(1 Peter 2:4-7)

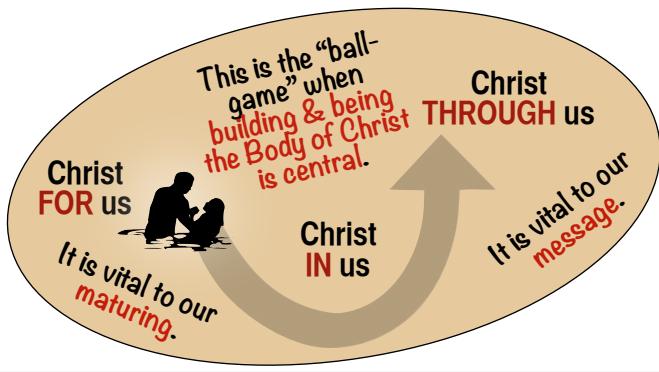
Branch / Vine
(John 15:1-16)

Christ is the fullness of God & the model of humanity.

The church is the Body of Christ & the light of the world.

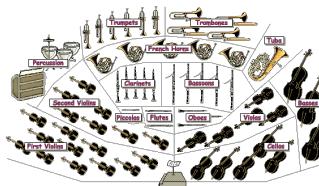
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The Mission of the church is to be the whole Body of Christ, showing and telling the Word & Way of the Cross.

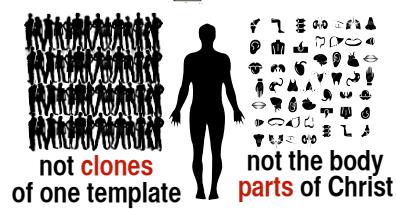


7

The Body of Christ is a family, team, orchestra.



The church is the Body of Christ, but only when the pieces function as attached to one another and the head.

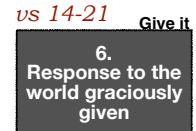
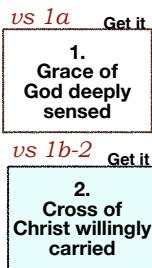


The unity & diversity of the Body of Christ is a witness to the grace & love of God in the Gospel.

8

Romans 12

The Gospel is the Love & Grace of God on display -



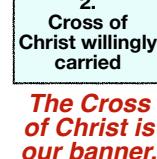
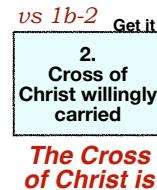
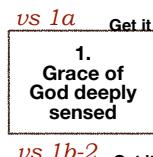
- through the church's show and tell mission to the world.



9

A Christian mission statement

The GRACE of God is our hope.



Romans 12

"1 I urge you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies a living and holy sacrifice, acceptable to God, which is your spiritual service of worship. 2 And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what the will of God is, that which is good and acceptable and perfect."

"4 For just as we have many members in one body and all the members do not have the same function, 5 so we, who are many, are one body in Christ, and individually members one of another."

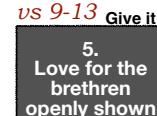
The Body of Christ is our team.

10

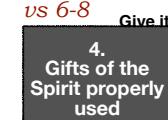
The fruit of God's grace and love is GRACE and LOVE.

"9 Let love be without hypocrisy. Abhor what is evil; cling to what is good. 10 Be devoted to one another in brotherly love; give preference to one another in honor; 11 not lagging behind in diligence, fervent in spirit, serving the Lord; 12 rejoicing in hope, persevering in tribulation, devoted to prayer, 13 contributing to the needs of the saints, practicing hospitality."

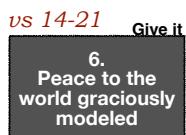
The Love in God's church is evident.



The gifts for God's service are exercised.



Romans 12 begins with "getting" the grace & peace of God and it ends with "giving" the Grace & peace of God.



We show the peace of God before we share it.

Romans 12

"14 Bless those who persecute you; bless and curse not. 15 Rejoice with those who rejoice, and weep with those who weep. 16 Be of the same mind toward one another; do not be haughty in mind, but associate with the lowly. Do not be wise in your own estimation. 17 Never pay back evil for evil to anyone. Respect what is right in the sight of all men. 18 If possible, so far as it depends on you, be at peace with all men. 19 Never take your own revenge, beloved, but leave room for the wrath of God, for it is written, "Vengeance is Mine, I will repay," says the Lord. 20 But if your enemy is hungry, feed him, and if he is thirsty, give him a drink; for in so doing you will heap burning coals upon his head." 21 Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good."

11

12

1 Peter 3

“15 but sanctify Christ as Lord in your hearts, always **being ready to make a defense to everyone who asks you to give an account for the hope that is in you**, yet with gentleness and reverence; 16 and keep a good conscience so that in the thing in which you are slandered, those who revile your good behavior in Christ may be put to shame.”

Evangelistic tools.

1. **Suffering** cries for hope are respected.
2. **Showing** peace in the midst of it all is modeled.
3. **Sensitivity** to the image of God is honored.
4. **Sharing** the Gospel is offered.
5. **Shame** is addressed and avoided.

13

John 14

“25 These things I have spoken to you, while abiding with you. 26 But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in My name, **He will teach you all things, and bring to your remembrance all that I said to you.**”

Ephesians (as an example) spells out our calling.

ch.1-3

What Christ has done
FOR us.

Our Identity
imputed righteousness
by faith

ch.4-6

What Christ is doing
IN and **THROUGH** us.

Our Integrity
inspired response
by faithfulness

“Remember”

“Walk”

“Therefore I, the prisoner of the Lord, implore you to walk in a manner worthy of the calling with which you have been called.” 4:1

14

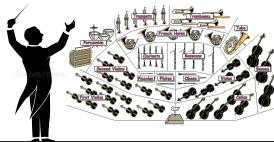
Ephesians 4

“11 And He gave some as apostles, and some as prophets, and some as evangelists, and some as pastors and teachers, 12 **for the equipping of the saints for the work of service, to the building up of the body of Christ;**”

In the ideal church, the elders coach & oversee
and the congregation plans & carries out.

In too many churches, the ministers minister
and the congregation congregates.

Effective communities have shared
rules, roles, training, goals,
& interdependence.



15

Ephesians 4

“14 As a result, we are no longer to be **children**, tossed here and there by waves, and **carried about** by every **wind of doctrine**, by the trickery of men, by craftiness in **deceitful scheming**;”

Move away from the Kingdom of God

“A team plays for the name on the front of the jersey
not for the name on the back!”

Dean Smith



16

Some American evangelical “sacred cows” that may reflect American values more than God’s kingdom.

1. **Individualism** without community.
2. **Competition** without compassion, cooperation, and compromise.
3. **Local congregation** without Kingdom perspective.
4. **Orthodoxy** without serenity, security, and significance.
5. **Uniformity** based on this world’s values.
6. **Success** measured by “nickels and noses”, not salt & light.



17

“15 but **speaking the truth in love**, we are to grow up **in all aspects** into Him, who is the head, even Christ, 16 from whom the whole body, being fitted and held together by that which every joint supplies, according to the **proper working of each individual part**, causes the growth of the body for the building up of itself in love.”

Common rules (truth & love) & diverse roles (teamwork)



Every player has a key role
starting with the linemen.

18

***Walking in a manner worthy of our calling
from the Epistles.***

1. The way we **realize our identity** in Christ as a part of the “Body of Christ” is calling #1.
2. The way we **love one another** in the community of faith is calling #2.
3. The way we **respect diverse gifts** in shaping the Body of Christ is calling #3.
4. The way we **react to life's ups & downs** is calling #4.
5. The way we **respond to the core needs of a suffering world** is calling #5.

19

Hard Questions



20