

# THE LORD HAS NEED OF YOU

## *Being effective members of His body*

### Introduction

- 1) **Matthew 21:3** – “The Lord has need of them” – Who? Important people? No, lowly donkeys! If the Lord could use some donkeys, He can use you and me!
- 2) The **body** is an oft-used image to describe the church and its **members** (Rom. 12:4-5; 1 Cor. 10:17; 12:12-30; Eph. 1:23; 4:4, 15-16; Col. 1:18, 24; 2:19; 3:15)
  - a) **Body** – an organism composed of a variety of parts functioning together for the common good (unity) (1 Cor. 12:14, 20)
  - b) **Member** – a constituent part having a function of its own (diversity) (Rom. 12:4)
- 3) For the body to function, each member must be ready to act in unison with other members

### I) **Two Important Truths**

- A) The use of the body as an image emphasizes two important truths
  - 1) Jesus is the head of the church (Col. 1:18; Eph. 5:23-24)
    - a) The body has one head to direct all the members together
  - 2) The oneness of the church (Eph. 4:4; Col. 3:15)
    - a) There must be unity for the whole body to function properly

### II) **Christ as Head of the Body**

- A) Must be connected to Christ to be spiritually alive and functioning
  - 1) Ephesians 4:15-16 – avoid the dangers of the trickery of men (v. 14)
  - 2) Colossians 2:19 – avoid losing our reward (v. 18)

### III) **Members Functioning Together**

- A) Humility (Rom. 12:3)
  - 1) Not think too highly of ourselves, but be sober-thinking in a sound mind
  - 2) Person with one talent should not feel inferior, and person with five talents should not be prideful (Matt. 25:15)
- B) All members should work humbly together for the good of the whole body of Christ
  - 1) Do not compare what you can do to what others do (1 Cor. 12:15-16)
  - 2) If you do not do your part, you cripple the body (1 Cor. 12:17)
  - 3) The body can function only when every member does its part (1 Cor. 12:18-21)
- C) Members have diverse abilities and functions
  - 1) Romans 12:6-8; Ephesians 4:11; 1 Corinthians 12:28-30
  - 2) Do not give in to human judgments about who is “more important” and conclude that what I can do is not important (1 Cor. 12:22-24)
    - a) Though we have different functions we have equal importance!
  - 3) Must learn to get along and care about each other (1 Cor. 12:25-26)
    - a) All our growth and successes are invested in our working together in unity
    - b) Must work through conflicts and problems with love and godly attitudes
      - i) If something said or done hurts our feelings, we must not let our pride rob God of our talents by quitting, but remember to be humble and seek to please God

### Conclusion

We should understand the nature of the **body** [church] of Christ and our part as individual **members**. Our unity must be strong to withstand the efforts of the evil one to divide and destroy the body here and everywhere (Eph. 4:14-16).