

St. Joseph Church

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Although close to the ideal, the family is second to the definitive model of community for the church. The New Testament books of Acts, First Corinthians, and Ephesians describe the Church as the Body of Christ. Just as a body is healthiest when all the parts contribute their particular activities, so is the Church at its best expression of being the community of God's people when each part lives as it should.

Acts, chapter nine, reveals Paul's encounter with the risen Christ who asks him, "Why are you persecuting Me?" In response to Paul's inquiry Jesus identifies Himself as the one persecuted when Paul imprisons and punishes those who believe in Him.

Paul was so impressed with this experience that later he would write the Corinthians that we Christians are a Body with Jesus as the Head. (I Cor 12:12-27) As a body is one though it has many parts, and all the parts of the body, though many, are one body, so also Christ. For in one Spirit we were all baptized into one body, whether Jews or Greeks, slaves or free persons, and we were all given to drink of one Spirit.

Now the body is not a single part, but many. If a foot should say, "Because I am not a hand, I do not belong to the body," it does not for this reason belong any less to the body. Or if an ear should say, "Because I am not an eye, I do not belong to the body" it does not for this reason belong any less to the body.

If the whole body were an eye, where would the hearing be? If the whole body were hearing, where would the sense of smell be? But, as it is, God placed the parts, each one of them, in the body as He intended. If they were all one part, where would the body be?If one part suffers, all the parts suffer with it; if one part is honored, all the parts share its joy

Now you are Christ's body and individually parts of it.

To be continued...