



# The Southeast Sower

Southeast Church of Christ

Volume 27 Issue 7

July 2012

## Grandpa, I Need You

by  
Vernon Teagarden

These are the words I hear quite often from my grandson, John, who is four. Usually the words mean that he has something to show me that he feels is worth taking an interest in. However, occasionally he really does need my help in some endeavor; like turning stones over to look for "warms," or getting one of his favorite games down from the top self. Nevertheless, whatever his motive may be at the time, I like hearing him say, "Grandpa, I need you." And although he doesn't realize it, to hear him say it is not just delightful, but beneficial to me.

I believe all of us would agree that it's nice to be needed. We like knowing that we have something worthwhile to contribute, to our mate, our family, society, and the church. The apostle Paul had to remind the Corinthians that every member in the body of Christ is needed and essential to the overall good and wellbeing of the church. Some in the church

at Corinth, particularly those who possessed certain spiritual gifts, thought of themselves more highly than they ought to think while others, those, for example, who did not possess spiritual gifts, had a very low self-esteem. Both parties had to be reminded of the importance of each member of the body and that each member is needed and has something worthwhile to contribute.

To teach this lesson, Paul turns his attention to the physical body. He writes, "*For in fact the body is not one member but many.*"<sup>15</sup> *If the foot should say, "Because I am not a hand, I am not of the body," is it therefore not of the body?*<sup>16</sup> *And if the ear should say, "Because I am not an eye, I am not of the body," is it therefore not of the body?*<sup>17</sup> *If the whole body were an eye, where would be the hearing? If the whole were hearing, where would be the smelling?*<sup>18</sup> *But now God has set the members, each one of them, in the body just as He pleased.*<sup>19</sup> *And if they were all one member, where would the body be?*<sup>20</sup> *But now indeed there are many members, yet one body.*<sup>21</sup> *And the eye cannot say to the hand, "I have no need of you"; nor again the head to*

---

The Southeast

Church of Christ meets at:

35 Walnut Court

Mogadore, OH 44260

Phone: 330.628.7432

## SERVICES:

### Sunday

Bible Study: 10:00 am

Worship: 10:50 am

6:00 pm

### Wednesday

Bible Study: 7:30 pm

---

*the feet, "I have no need of you."*<sup>22</sup> *No, much rather, those members of the body which seem to be weaker are necessary.*<sup>23</sup> *And those members of the body which we think to be less honorable, on these we bestow greater honor; and our unpresentable parts have greater modesty,*<sup>24</sup> *but our presentable parts have no need. But God composed the body, having given greater honor to that part which lacks it,*<sup>25</sup> *that there should be no schism in the*

body, but that the members should have the same care for one another. <sup>26</sup> And if one member suffers, all the members suffer with it; or if one member is honored, all the members rejoice with it. <sup>27</sup> Now you are the body of Christ, and members individually (1 Cor. 12:14-27 NKJV).

Paul's point is that the church, just as the human body, is composed of many different members functioning in their individual capacity for the overall good of the body. It is not just one, but many members working together. Each member is important and each is needed.

Sometimes we lose sight of this truth. When this happens, then we become dysfunctional. We have forgotten that every member is needed and has a service to render and that the whole body will suffer when any member does not function as they should.

In Romans 12 and verse 5, the apostle Paul says, "So we, being many, are one body in Christ, and every one members one of another." The New American Standard Version renders this verse, "So we, who are many, are one body in Christ, and individually members one of another." The idea is that we, in the body of Christ, are so united as to be mutually dependent. Each is of service to the other. As one paraphrase suggests,

*"Just as there are many parts to our bodies, so it is with Christ's body. We are all parts of it, and it takes every one of us to make it complete, for we each have different work to do. So we belong to each other, and each needs all the others."*

We ought to realize that we need each other. If the church here is to be a healthy body we need the work that everyone can do. Brother, sister in Christ, "we need you." Isn't it nice to be needed?

---

#### Attitude Is Everything

I recently read of a man who was a prisoner in a Nazi concentration camp and a witness to some of the most indescribable horrors in world history. When asked how he avoided an attitude of bitterness and pessimism he wrote: "Everything can be taken from a man but one thing: to choose one's attitude in any given set of circumstances, to choose one's way."

One's attitude is a matter of choice. Few ever come to that realization. They merely take the mood that comes with the events of their day and act accordingly. If someone cuts them off in traffic, they will be in a foul mood for awhile. If good things happen to them they will be on top of the world. If not, then you better stay out of their way!

How can a person resolve to have the right attitude in daily practice? Here are some ideas from David - one who was described as having a heart like God's (Acts 13:22):

1. Practice Praise: "Oh, magnify the Lord with me, and let us exalt his name together," said David in Psalm 34:3 (NKJV). When we take time to realize how much greater God is than the problems of our world, we'll be encouraged and life won't seem so dismal and bleak.

2. Be Thankful: In Psalm 103:2, David gave this admonition: "Bless the Lord, O my soul, and forget not all his benefits." After writing that, he listed some of his many blessings. It will work the same for us. When we count our blessings, we remember that God has not forgotten us. Every day his mercies toward us are rich and plentiful.

3. Be Watchful: Hear David again in Psalm 101:3: "I will set nothing wicked before my eyes; I hate the work of those who fall away; it shall not cling to me." Is the world filling our souls with discouraging images of problems or with scenes of wickedness? Would our attitudes improve if we spent time meditating on good, wholesome ideas and images (Phil. 4:8)? "Garbage in, garbage out" was first applied to computers, but it also explains many a bad attitude.

Christians should be demonstrating a transformed attitude that is markedly different from the world. Jesus said so in John 15:11: "These things I have spoken to you, that my joy may remain in you, and that your joy may be full." Does your joy show? If it doesn't, it's time to choose a better attitude....with God's help.

- Jeff Haught