

THE BODY IS NOT ONE MEMBER, CONT'D

This places at least two conditions on our relationship with our fellow humans. First, we must have a love for them that rivals our love for ourselves. Not only must we want the best for them, but we must be willing to do what we can to make that happen. Second, we must have a love for ourselves. This concept is often overlooked, or even disregarded by Christians. The concept that Jesus was teaching here is that we must have a love of ourselves that is strong enough to want the best things to happen. Then that love would cause our love for our neighbors to be the type that would make us do what is necessary for their well being. Plainly stated, if we do not love ourselves enough to do what it takes to be acceptable to God and save our own soul; how can we love our neighbors enough to do what it takes to convince them to accept the teachings of Jesus and the apostles so that they can also be saved? The concept that Paul was discussing with our Corinthian brothers and sisters is similar. The church must have a diverse population. We cannot all share the same gifts and have a viable and growing congregation any more than a body can be made of one member. However, we must all have a love of our neighbors that causes us to use the gifts we have to affect their salvation, and consequently our own. 📖 Bill Beebe

OUR FAMILY NEWS

Pray For: Logan's grandpa, The Larry Smith and Cooper families for their loss.
Traveling/Working: Slope workers, etc. Danesa, Hans and Brandon in Dillingham.
Potluck: Potluck at the Kelly's on today after morning Worship..
Radio Program: Listen to "Searching the Scriptures", our weekly radio program, Sundays at 9am, on 99.7 FM.
Today's Scripture: "Wherefore if any man is in Christ, he is a new creature: the old things are passed away; behold, they are become new." 2 Cor. 5:17 (1901 ASV)
Today's Proverb: "Wisdom resteth in the heart of him that hath understanding; But that which is in the inward part of fools is made known." 14:33 (1901 ASV)
Attendance Last Sunday: 68

IMPORTANT CONTACT INFORMATION

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June 25th, 2017 BULLETIN for the

Church of Christ AT WASILLA

God's Plan of Salvation

Hear Romans 10:17
Believe Mark 16:16, Hebrews 11:1-6
Repent Acts 2:38, II Corinthians 7:10
Confess Romans 10:9-10, Matthew 10:32-33
Be Baptized Mark 16:16, Acts 22:16
Arise & Walk in Newness of Life Romans 6:4

"For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to everyone that believeth..."

—Romans 1:16 KJV

MEETING TIMES

Sunday:

Bible Classes 10AM
AM Worship 11AM
PM Worship 6PM

Wednesday:

Bible Classes 7PM

COME JOIN US!

The church of Christ at Wasilla meets at:
2061 N. Merciful Circle
Wasilla, AK 99654
Visit our website at:
www.churchofchristwasilla.com
(907) 373-5773

Visitors Always Welcome; Members Expected

THE THOUGHTS OF OUR HEARTS

The Psalmist addressed one of the most secret parts of man and revealed a characteristic that divides the wicked from the righteous. He said, *"The wicked, through the pride of his countenance, will not seek after God: God is not in all his thoughts"* (Psalm 10:4). It's hard to argue with a divinely revealed judgment that pride is the root of this trait, but it also means that if there are times that God is not in our thoughts, then we have room to improve. In fact, God and Scripture judge our thoughts. Paul noted through a rhetorical question that we cannot know what anyone is thinking unless he tells us. *"For what man knoweth the things of a man, save the spirit of man which is in him?"* (1 Corinthians 2:11a). It's easy to think about God when we're in trouble or need something special to happen in our lives, but do we think about God when we're praised for doing well? Herod didn't when he was complimented by the people for a speech, and God knew it. *"And immediately the angel of the Lord smote him, because he gave not God the glory: and he was eaten of worms, and gave up the ghost"* (Acts 12:23). Does our pride prevent us from seeing God in others who are made in His image? He told us He is no respecter of persons (Acts 10:34). Or, do we think about God as we make plans? James admonished, *"For that ye ought to say, If the Lord will, we shall live, and do this, or that"* (James 4:15).

Our thoughts are not known only to ourselves. God judges them, and He desires that they not lead us into the wrong paths. The writer of Hebrews penned, *"For the word of God is quick, and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart"* (Hebrews 4:12). Remember, Jesus asked scribes what to them was no doubt a disconcerting question, *"And Jesus knowing their thoughts said, 'Wherefore think ye evil in your hearts?'"* (Matthew 9:4). There were several other times that Jesus asked about the thoughts of men because He could see their hearts (Luke 24:38; 6:8; 5:22). However, God isn't looking to punish us just because we may be tempted through our thoughts, but He desires we understand that our thoughts will defile us if they aren't controlled. Jesus said, *"That which cometh out of the man, that defileth the man. For from within, out of the heart of men, proceed evil thoughts, adulteries, fornications, murders, Thefts, covetousness, wickedness, deceit, lasciviousness, an evil eye, blasphemy, pride, foolishness:*

GOD'S GUIDE BOOK – THE BIBLE (Cont'd)

All these evil things come from within, and defile the man" (Matthew 7:20-23). The thoughts of the heart through the conscience will accuse or excuse (Romans 2:15).

Thankfully like all areas of our lives, we have spiritual help in this area too. Paul affirmed that we are not warring after the flesh, but our warfare is with Satan. The apostle summed up our circumstances when he wrote, *"For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal, but mighty through God to the pulling down of strong holds; Casting down imaginations, and every high thing that exalteth itself against the knowledge of God, and bringing into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ"* (2 Corinthians 10:4-5). The knowledge we have about our thoughts can help us understand what God desires from us. Let's humble ourselves so that God is in all of our thoughts, and let's use the help He offers to shun evil thoughts and be pure in heart.

📖 Matthew Johnson

THE BODY IS NOT ONE MEMBER

Paul used this term to describe the church in his letter to the Corinthians (1 Cor. 12:14). He was encouraging both a unified body and the importance of each part in the success of the whole. In his discussion, he pointed out that the human body could not function if it were composed entirely of a hand, or a foot or an eye. It takes all the parts for the body to be successful in life. In addition, he described the care that each part has for the others (1 Cor. 12:25-26). Paul, of all the apostles, understood the importance of the individual Christian in the plan that God had for man. He discussed the differences in abilities and their importance to the church in his letter to the Corinthians (1 Cor. 12:29-30). He understood the potential for individuals to have tremendous influence for good in the church (2 Tim. 1:5). However, he also understood the potential for harm that some individuals also have (2 Tim. 4:14). These two situations that occur in the church have a common thread. This is love. In the case of the coppersmith, there was a lack of love for Paul and the church. In the case of Eunice and Timothy love was obviously present. When Jesus was asked what the greatest commandment was he replied "Love the Lord thy God" (Matt. 22:37). However, he did not stop there. He continued by saying that "Thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself" (Matt 22:39) which he said was the second greatest commandment. The interesting thing about the second greatest commandment is that we are to love our neighbors as ourselves. This places at least two conditions on our relationship with our fellow humans. First, we must have a love for them that rivals our love for ourselves. **(Continued on back page.)**