

Vestigial Organs In The Body of Christ?

I. 'Vestigial' Service In Lord's Body

[Let each do his part]

Romans 12:3-8

- 3: warning against pride
- 4: many members, different functions, same goal
- 5: we, the many, are one body
- 6-8: gifts differ (talents)

Romans 12:3-8

- 6-8, gifts differ (talents)

Prophecy: miraculous instruction

Minister: do what needs to be done

Teach: drill in basics, alerted

Exhort: urge strongly, 2 Tim.4:2

Share / give: Ac.20:35

Lead: blessing of maturity. Is.3:4

Show mercy: Prov.19:11

1 Corinthians 12

1. One body, many members, 12-14
2. Context: spiritual gifts: big heads vs little heads
3. Inferiority complex, 15-20
4. Superiority complex, 21-24
 - ▶ No schism; mutual care, 25-26
 - ▶ Body, 27

1 Corinthians 12 Lessons

1. God can use each one of us.
2. He holds us accountable, Mt.25:14.
3. His work suffers if one slacks.
4. Each member is different; each is important.

I. 'Vestigial' Service In Lord's Body

II. Vigorous Service
In Healthy Body
[What Can I Do?]

1. I Can Encourage Others

Ac.4; 9; 11; 15

- Elders: time, work, broken hearts...
- Teachers: have effect on people
- Rest of us?

1. I Can Encourage Others

2. I Can Teach Others

Ac.8; 9; 10; 18

1 Co.3:6-9

- Family: Ep.6:4. Ps.78:1-4. Ec.12...
- Neighbors: variety of ways
 - Cards
 - Tapes / CDs
 - Tracts / bulletins
 - Mouth / website

1. I Can Encourage Others
2. I Can Teach Others

3. I Can Comfort Brothers

³ Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies and God of all comfort, ⁴ who comforts us in all our tribulation, that we may be able to comfort those who are in any trouble, with the comfort with which we ourselves are comforted by God – 2 Co.1:3-4

- No one can strengthen the weak / sick / distressed better than one who has experienced it – empathy
- Problems with temptation . . .

1. I Can Encourage Others
2. I Can Teach Others
3. I Can Comfort Brothers

4. I Can Pray For Brothers

“Brethren, pray for us” – 1 Th.5:25

“Now may the Lord of peace Himself give you peace always in every way . The Lord be with you all” – 2 Th.3:16

- Elderly
- Busy
- Tired

1. I Can Encourage Others
2. I Can Teach Others
3. I Can Comfort Brothers
4. I Can Pray For Brothers

5. I Can Stand For Truth

...but if I am delayed, I write so that you may know how you ought to conduct yourself in the house of God, which is the church of the living God, the pillar and ground of the truth – 1 Tim.3:15

- Many opponents, 1 T.4:1-4
- “I can’t preach / teach . . .”

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5. I Can Stand For Truth

6. I Can Be An Example

Let no one despise your youth, but be an example to the believers in word, in conduct, in love, in spirit, in faith, in purity – 1 Tim.4:12

Take heed to yourself and to the doctrine. Continue in them, for in doing this you will save both yourself and those who hear you – 1 Tim.4:16

God does not *need* any of us

- His love wants what is best – active, healthy members in body
- 1 Sm.30
 1. David's strength came from God
 2. It helped his soldiers
 3. It strengthens us too