

Deeply Connected

The Lord's church, both local and universal, is described as a body. It has a "head" (Jesus) from whom it gets its life and direction. It has a "body" (members) that is to be deeply connected.

Question: As a member of this body, are you superficially attached to this body (like a shoe), or are you deeply connected (like a foot)? When you have time, read again the three "body" passages in the NT: Romans 12, 1 Corinthians 12, and Ephesians 4. Each of these passages teach that we are to be deeply connected.

How can you tell if a member is superficially attached instead of being deeply connected? Here are a few indications. With some members, all their activity is done at the building only. They do just the bare minimum and keep to themselves. They have a spirit of independence where they don't need others. They don't know the other members' names, where they live, their life issues, etc.

Members who are not deeply connected often don't do anything for the other members. They cause factions, divisions, and quarreling within the local church. They are more likely to have personality clashes. They are more attached to their worldly relationships and friends than to members of the local church.

Are you superficially attached or deeply connected to this body? - *Chris*

News & Notes

- It is better to be despised for doing right than praised for doing wrong.
- A Christian will arrive at the desired destination of heaven only if he stays on the right track.
- Some people worry more about where they will spend one week of vacation than where they will spend eternity.
- Two disappointments in life: people who quit the Christian life and others who never begin it.

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Assembly Times
Sunday: 9:30 am, 10:30 am, 6 pm
Wednesday: 7 pm

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For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war according to the flesh, for the weapons of our warfare are not of the flesh, but divinely powerful for the destruction of fortresses.
- 2 Corinthians 10:3-4 -

Two Kinds of People

It's hard to identify some people, isn't it? Consider the many different languages, colors, races, etc., among people. Consider also the different mental and physical conditions of individuals. Consider the different social and economic statuses of some folks. Consider the different personalities, idiosyncrasies, etc., that people have.

However, when it comes to identifying a person's spiritual condition and relationship with God, it is easy to identify them. Spiritually speaking, there are only two kinds or groups of people in the world. (And that's about 7 billion people!)

Jesus sets forth the criteria for two kinds of people in the Sermon on the Mount (Matthew 7:13-27). Let's examine these two kinds of people. Which one are you? Which group of persons are you among?

Two Ways (Mt. 7:13-14)

Jesus said there are only two ways to travel in life: the broad way and the narrow way. First, there are people who are traveling down the broad way to eternal destruction. The broad gate is the way of life that is easy, the way of plenty of room. Many travel this way because it is popular and it is for the majority. However, it leads to destruction (hell).

Then, there are those who are travel-

ing down the road to eternal life (heaven). The narrow gate is the way that is hard. It is limited and restrictive. You have to search for it (Luke 13:23). This journey begins with Jesus (John 14:6). Few travel this way because it is unpopular and for the minority.

Two Trees (Mt. 7:15-20)

Jesus said there are only two trees in life: the evil and the good. First, there are those people who teach evil. They are false (Deuteronomy 13:1-5; Jeremiah 23:16,18,23,28), deceptive (sheep's clothing), and dangerous (ravens wolves; Acts 20:29-30). They are known for their evil fruit; their evil character, conduct, and teaching. They will be cut down and judged. Then, there are those people who teach good.

Two Claims (Mt. 7:21-23)

Jesus said there are only two claims in life: those who say only and those who say and do (obey). First, there are those who say they follow Jesus, but do not actually do it (Luke 6:46; 1 John 1:6; 2:4). They say, "Lord, Lord". They are respectful and enthusiastic. But, they actually work iniquity (lawlessness). Then, there are those who say they follow Jesus and actually do it. They do the will of the Father who is heaven.

Two Builders (Mt. 7:24-27)

Jesus said there are only two kinds of builders in life: the sand builders and the rock

builders. First, there are the foolish builders who hear Jesus' words and do them not (James 1:22-25; 2:14-20). They build on a flimsy foundation of sand. They collapse under the trials and tests of life.

Then, there are the wise builders who know Jesus and obey Him. They hear Jesus' words and do them. They build on a solid foundation of rock - Jesus (1 Corinthians 3:11). They stand firm under the trials and tests of life. They have more than a mere intellectual knowledge of Jesus.

What way are you traveling in life? Not everyone will be saved. What fruit are you producing in life? Not everyone teaches the truth. What claim are you making in life? Not everyone obeys the Father. What character are you building in life? Not everyone is wise and builds their life on Jesus' teaching.

Jesus' teaching here is unpopular today (Matthew 7:28-29). Note that Jesus did not give a third alternative. He gave just two choices. People today like to be "middle of the road" (not "extremists" or "fanatics"), "neutral", or "undecided." However, Jesus did not allow this. Why are there only two kinds of people? Because there only two masters in this world: God or the world (Matthew 6:24).

The choice is yours! What kind of person will you be today? - Chris Reeves