



## Touchstones of the Heart

### A Prescription for Living in Community

A friend of mine recently said to me that he believes the greatest lie the devil has sold to the church is the phrase, “going to church.” He calls this way of thinking, “churchianity,” and believes that most of our troubles stem from a fundamental belief in “going to church.” If this sounds strange and perhaps a little radical, you are right. The reason it sounds radical is because the church has been fed this lie since about 127 A.D., when the Bishops established themselves as the only authority for the church and set the head Bishop in Rome as Christ’s representative on earth. Of course there have been departures from this pattern called reformation, but it usually resurfaces again in another form. In reality what we need is a shift in our thinking. The bible says in Proverbs 23:7, “As a man thinks in his heart, so is he.” And Jesus, echoing these words says in Matthew 12:34, “from the abundance of the heart the mouth speaks.” When in our heart of hearts we begin to think a certain way about ourselves our actions will naturally line up with our thinking. So if we “think” we are sick, then our body will follow our thinking and be sick. Therefore, it is our thoughts that direct our actions and that of our bodies. Let’s

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### Ministry Updates

In this months newsletter the theme has been fulfilling our purpose and how we are to operate as the church. When I sat down to write, I only had a concept in mind of what God was speaking, but as I started to write He flooded my mind with the words. As always, I pray that what is written will bless, inspire and encourage all who read it. Doors for ministry opportunity continue to open and we are seeking God’s direction. Theresa recently got her North Carolina license for Massage Therapy and is looking for direction to use this gift. The Lord has been leading

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### Tidbits for Living: The Battle Field For Your Heart



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Do you know your purpose? In the opening article I discussed the concept of what is often referred to as “New Testament Christianity,” as if it should somehow be different than our modern day Christianity. From the scriptures used in that article one can conclude that each member of the “body” has a function or better stated a purpose. I am going to go out on a limb here and say that if you are not fulfilling your purpose you are in disobedience. Now I know that is a hard saying and may even make some mad. However, I would like to point out the title of this article is, “The Battle Field For Your Heart,” and next I would like to explain why I call it that. First, I believe that as Christians we do not belong to this world. When we are born again we receive a new nature and become members of the Kingdom of God. This means that not only is our nature changed, but so is our citizenship. Secondly, the Kingdom that we now belong to is in a state of war. This means that each member needs to be at their post in order to

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“White Cross”  
By Marc Chagall

### Newsletter Spotlight

**So then, when everyone joins together, a body is formed, and each part performs a function that builds up the whole. Stop “going to church” and start being the church! Ask God, “what is my purpose?” and expect an answer. When he tells you, then go and fulfill your purpose for Him.**



## Touchstones of the Heart

### A Prescription for Living in Community (Continued)

consider the words of Paul in I Corinthians 12, where he compares the church to a “body,” it stands to reason then whatever the body “thinks” themselves (as a body of believers) to be that is what they will be or become. If they think themselves to be a group of people who go to a place called “the church” to be led *to* worship and *fed* a sermon, then that is exactly what they will be. However, if they consider themselves to be a body of believers coming together in fellowship, where each individual part has a purpose to contribute to the rest of the body, then they will truly be a living organism. John Eldredge speaking about this type of community in *Waking the Dead* says, “Seriously now—how often have you seen this sort of intimate community work? It is rare. Because it is hard, and it is fiercely *opposed*. The Enemy hates this sort of thing; he knows how powerful it can be, for God and his kingdom. For our hearts. It is devastating to him.” James offers a prescription for this type of community when he says, “Is any one of you in trouble? He should pray. Is anyone happy? Let him sing songs of praise. Is any one of you sick? He should call the elders of the church to pray over him and anoint him with oil in the name of the Lord” (James 5:13-14, NIV). Paul says by way of instruction in I Corinthians 14:26, “What then shall we say, brothers? When you come together, everyone has a hymn, or a word of instruction, a revelation, a tongue or an interpretation. All of these must be done for the strengthening of the church.” Compare that with I Corinthians 12:12, “The body is a unit, though it is made up of many parts; and though its parts are many, they form one body. So it is with Christ.” So then, when everyone joins together, a body is formed, and each part performs a function that builds up the whole. Stop “going to church” and start being the church! Ask God, “what is my purpose?” and expect an answer. When he tells you, then go and fulfill your purpose for Him.

### Ministry Updates (Continued)

Theresa to start a women’s bible study and fellowship. God has put her together with another sister with the same desire and call and they are partnering to start a work in the North Cove area. Please pray for this work that they will strengthen the body of Christ in this area.

### Tidbits for Living: The Battle Field For Your Heart (Continued)

protect each other. This battle is fought on many fronts, but due to space I will only deal with one, the church. Paul said, “It was he (Jesus) who gave some to be apostles, some to be prophets, some to be evangelists, and some to be pastors and teachers, to prepare God’s people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up...” (Eph 4:11,12 NIV). These are those who are called by God to serve the body. They are to operate in the church to encourage, teach and prepare the people to fulfill their purpose. In light of this scripture and 1 Corinthians 14:26, we should be asking God, “where do I fit in, what is my purpose?” If you ask, He will answer. Perhaps you have a calling? Or maybe you are one who is to be prepared for works of service? Whichever it is, I would suggest that if you are not fulfilling your purpose you are failing to stand your post in this battle and endangering the rest of the body. As Paul said, “But in fact God has arranged the parts in the body, every one of them, just as he wanted them to be” (1 Cor. 12:19,20 NIV).

*May I give one more small piece of advice? Don’t do these things because you “ought to”, but do them because you understand without them you will die on the battle field for your heart!*

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