

## SECTION TWO: WALK

### INTRODUCTION TO SECTION TWO:

Once we have learnt to sit with Christ, then we can begin to think about how we walk as Christians.

**ILLUSTRATION:** As Watchman Nee said – it's a bit like driving a car: you drive a car from the place of *sitting*. So it is with walking as Christians – if we want to get it right and walk in the world as children of light, then we need to do this from a place of sitting with Christ.

Sitting is always followed by walking – we bring *who we are with Christ in the heavenlies* into this world in which we are living. This happens in two ways:

1. Through the Body of Christ – the church
2. Through our individual lives as Christians

### TALK 3: Christ's Body in the World: Ephesians 4: 1-16.

#### Introduction:

**KEY INTRODUCTORY POINT:** The church is now the main way in which God reveals himself to the world. It is first and foremost as members of Christ's body, corporately, that we walk as children of light revealing Jesus to the world.

**EXPLANATION:** First God used Israel to reveal himself to all the other nations; then his revelation culminated in the sending of his Son Jesus. Now, however, the church is **Christ's body** here on earth. The church is God's revelation of himself today.

**USEFUL QUOTE:** Teresa of Avila said this: '*Christ has no body now on earth but ours, no hands but ours, no feet but ours, ours are the eyes through which to look out: Christ's compassion to the world. Ours are the feet with which he is to go about doing good. Ours are the hands with which he is to bless men now.*'

So what does Paul say about the Body of Christ?

1. We are ONE body – Unity is vital:

**KEY VERSE: v. 3-6:** 'Make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace. There is one body and one spirit – just as you were called to one hope when you were called – one Lord, one faith, one baptism; one God and Father of all, who is over all and through all and in all.'

**ILLUSTRATION:** (you can use this or think of a better one!): Imagine a puzzle – when it is all in separate pieces it is very difficult to tell what the puzzle is a picture of. Every piece of the puzzle makes up a bit of the whole picture – but on its own it reflects very little of the full picture. Similarly if  $\frac{3}{4}$  of the puzzle is put together, but a  $\frac{1}{4}$  is missing, there is still part of the image that we can't see.

**KEY POINT:** Disunity means that Christ's body is dissembled. Therefore it cannot fully reflect Christ or do the work of Christ in this world. Unity is fundamental to fully being Christ's hands and feet in the world.

**BUZZ GROUP:** What are the stumbling blocks that trip us up on being united? How can we overcome these?

2. Each part exists for the sake of the whole body:

**INTRODUCTORY POINT:** The three musketeers have that famous saying: **all for one and one for all**. But this is the opposite of how society lives.

**KEY VERSES: v. 12-13:** ‘...to prepare God’s people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up until we all reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of the Son of God and become mature, attaining to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ.’

**ILLUSTRATION:** Think of a story that illustrates how the body of Christ needs to grow in order to look more and more like Christ. i.e. the more we grow as children the more we resemble our parents...

**KEY POINT:** Paul is setting the church this goal: ‘You, by default of being Christians, are the body of Christ. But at the moment you are infants, babies spiritually. The church now needs to grow up, and matures so that it begins to reflect Christ more and more.’ How does the church do this? By all playing our parts for the sake of the whole body.

**ILLUSTRATION:** Give some examples to explain this: i.e. For example: the bicep and the tricep in the arm are there to enable the whole of the arm to perform its function, which in turn blesses the whole body –These muscles work in conjunction with the rest of the arm. The tricep and bicep do not exist for their own good, they exist to help the rest of the arm.

**EXPLANATION:** Paul lists 5 roles (just a selection) as an example of how this works:

Paul says that these roles exist: v. 11: ‘...TO PREPARE GOD’S PEOPLE FOR WORKS OF SERVICE SO THAT THE BODY OF CHRIST MAY BE *BUILT UP*...’

**USEFUL QUOTE:** Tom Wright: ‘The main point of having certain people having... roles is so that every single Christian, and the church as a whole, may be equipped for their works of service.’

**APPLICATION:** Each one of us has a part to play in the building up of the body of Christ. If we don’t do it the whole body will suffer. If we use our gifts, then the whole body will be blessed. For example: If someone who is gifted in teaching doesn’t teach, then the whole body loses out on being brought closer to Christ. We need to ask God what our gifts are and actively work out how we can best use these gifts for the church.

### 3. We all have a part to play:

**KEY POINT:** We all need to know what our role is in order to play our part. If you are a Christian, this means you are a member of the body of Christ. This means you have a role to play. And this is GOOD NEWS! It means we don’t have to worry about not being adequate or having a role... Each one of us has precious, needed gifts.

**BUZZ GROUPS:** What do you think your gifting is within the body of Christ?

Some (there are many more!) of the gifts are listed in these verses below:

**KEY VERSES: v. 11-12:** ‘So Christ himself gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the pastors and teachers,<sup>12</sup> to equip his people for works of service...’

AND 1 Corinthians 12: 28: ‘Now you are the body of Christ and each one of you is a part of it. And in the church God has appointed... workers of miracles, also those having gifts of healing, those able to help others, those with gifts of administration and those speaking in different kinds of tongues.’

**ILLUSTRATION:** Talk about one of your gifts and how you think this builds up the whole body.

**BUZZ GROUPS:** How can we exercise our gifts more within the church?

**MINISTRY IDEA:** Ask God to show you where he has gifted you, and how you can use this gift.