

The Body of Christ

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I. Introduction.

A. 2 Corinthians 2:11: “lest Satan should get an advantage of us for we are not ignorant of his devises.”

II. Satan’s masterstrokes to take advantage of us.

A. Eroding the foundation of the sufficiency and authority of the Scriptures. (1 Samuel 13:22)

B. That there should grow any resentment into bitterness concerning service.

C. The flesh. Preoccupation with the war inside prevents one from the war of possessing the land.

D. Getting man to subtly act in self reliance instead of dependence upon God. (John 5:19)

E. Thorns/things. The world tries to squeeze us into its own mold. It is important to hold things loosely. (Mark 4:19)

III. The final point: the masterstroke of individualism.

A. This is the stroke of being individualistic. (Romans 2:8, 12:1-8)

B. Individualism can produce pride. This means not thinking of oneself too lowly or too highly.

C. We are one body and we are supposed to act like it. God thought enough of it to send His son to die for it and to become present in it.

D. One person in isolation can never fulfill the Great Commission - it is the body. People differ in the gifts. (1 Corinthians 12)

1. We are not to measure our gifts with others.

2. Gifts are given for the common good.

3. We should not try to be like someone else or be guilty that we do not have that person’s gift.

4. The basic unit is a band of men.

5. We are “buddies” - there are not different levels. (Philippians 2:25)

6. We need one another, and we are to serve one another.

7. There is always room for more gifts.

E. Consequences of the gifts.

1. We should have a sane estimate of our gifts and develop them.
2. We need to recognize our need for the rest of the body. We cannot try to be the whole body.

F. The must dedicate ourselves together. (Romans 12:1)

IV. Conclusion.

Application questions.

1. Which if the first five masterstrokes used by Satan to get an advantage over us stood out to you? Explain.

2. How is individualism related to pride? What are the benefits of working as a group?

3. In what ways could you become more community focused? What gifts do you have that might serve others in a valuable way?
