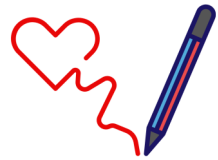


FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK



Being One in the Body of Christ

Dear Brothers and Sisters-in-Christ,

It is general knowledge that the basic elements for plant growth are light, air, and water. I once read an article about the ecology of trees in forests. It explained that when trees grow in dense forests, not every tree has access to sunlight or water. During their growth, the roots of the trees will naturally intertwine and grow together in the soil. As long as some trees can access light and water, the other trees that are connected to them can also continue to grow, demonstrating a communal and interdependent growth pattern among them.

This interconnected and unified ecological pattern of branches and roots prompted me to reflect on how the body of Christ fulfils the mission of Kingdom's work through the roles that each member plays. The Bible frequently teaches how members of Christ's body should cooperate with one another and complement each other, and serve wholeheartedly for the Lord. It is written in Ephesians 1:23 that the church *"is his body, the fullness of him who fills all in all"*. The church, as the body of Christ, is a community of believers on earth that lives out the gospel. We are here to exemplify Christlikeness through caring for one another within the household of God, for it is through serving one another in unity that the church is built up.

Admittedly, human's tendency is to resort to self-preservation or self-serving antics, displaying varying degrees of biasness and

resistance towards others out of one's past experience. We may know all about serving God and one another to build up the spiritual body, yet choose not to put that into practice.

As members joined together as one in Christ's body, our lives are inseparable. Thus, we are called to love and watch over one another, to serve one another and to empathize with one other, fostering mutual care and support. This is essential for our shared growth within the body of Christ.

Apostle Paul tells us that God reveals His manifold wisdom through the church: ***"so that through the church the manifold wisdom of God might now be made known to the rulers and authorities in the heavenly places"*** (Ephesians 3:10). This means that for the church to glorify God, it must begin with the lives of its believers.

Beyond being united as one body and demonstrating Christlikeness, we must also respond to the mission to which God has called the church, which is to proclaim the gospel to the world and fulfil the grace of His love. In fact, the ability to respond to God's calling is a privilege we enjoy in Christ and a testimony to His grace. We must remain faithful to what God has entrusted to us through the power of the Holy Spirit, relying on His grace and strength to complete the tasks He has assigned to us. By doing so, we can truly live our lives worthy of the calling we have received.

Pastor May Yee

**The above is a AI-translated, human-edited version of the original letter written by Pastor May Yee in Chinese which is also posted on 1 December 2024 in [JACM's bulletin](#) .*