

When one Member is Honored

The word is (1 Cor 12:26) that if one member suffers, all the members suffer with it. That is, you are a member. You have to be a member of the Body of Messiah to suffer with it — just as you suffer when your arm suffers. That is, if you are in the spirit, receiving the life of the Spirit. Sometimes we are so cut off and in the flesh that one member can suffer and we do not suffer at all. Verse 12 — “For even as the human body is one and yet has many members, so it is with Messiah’s Body,” and we were baptized into that Body by the Holy Spirit, and if we were not baptized into that Body, then we are not members and we will not suffer with another member when he suffers.

If one member is honored, then all the members rejoice with it. Now, what if you saw someone drinking a *vitamini* together somewhere? Do you begrudge them and say, “How come they’re drinking a *vitamini*? I’m not.” Do you begrudge them instead of rejoicing? Or what if someone in the bakery, someone responsible in the bakery, gave someone a cookie? What would you do? Would you rejoice or would you begrudge? Begrudge is to envy the possession and enjoyment of another; envy someone else getting a cookie; or, it is to give with reluctance — giving, but not really wanting to.

Now, Are we communists? Do we think that, “If you get a cookie, I get a cookie”? If one gets a cookie, everybody gets a cookie? NO. We are not communists where we would be forced to share. We are not that way. We do not say, “Where’s my cookie?” or get mad at a brother because he got a cookie and you didn’t. We rejoice when someone else gets a cookie. And (Rom 12:8) whoever gives, give without reluctance; give liberally; not begrudgingly; without holding back.

So we see in 1 Cor 12:26 that if we are in the Body and we have the Holy Spirit and we are in communion with the Holy Spirit, then this is a principle: If one person is honored, we rejoice with them. But if we are in the flesh and not in the Spirit, we are liable to get envious and begrudge them because they are honored and we are not. No one is under subjugation here. We

are here to be led by the Spirit and to love out of a willing heart. So if you see someone give someone a cookie, just rejoice. If you are in the Body and you are a member of the Body, you will do that.

I say this because an incident happened today where someone, out of compassion — it must have been the Holy Spirit that urged this person, the Holy Spirit of love came upon this person to give a cookie to someone. But someone else thought it was evil. So watch yourself, because if you make judgments of people's intentions and motives too soon, you might be calling evil good and good evil (Eph 4:17; 1 Cor 4:5). Wait until the judgment; do not judge prematurely. Be careful that you don't call a kind act iniquity. We could ruin the Body with premature judgments. It would be awful if nobody had liberty to give anything anymore. If someone saw that a brother wore the same thing everyday and so he gave him a shirt, and someone else would say, "How come you gave him a shirt and you didn't give me a shirt?" That destroys the Body. Make sure you are not tearing the Body down with premature judgments.

ha-emeq: That reminds me of that story of the servants who were given talents. To some he gave 10, some 5, some ONLY ONE! That was not *just*. 10, 5, and 1?? Our Father gave gifts to people. He did not say, "I'm going to make sure I give him and him exactly the same so they won't think I'm unfair or become jealous of each other." But we are supposed to deal with those feelings within ourselves. The person who had only one had to really be careful because the accusation he had was that our Father was unjust. He was the one who was cast out.

And so to those who lack, more abundant honor is given. We are to have the same care for one another as we are led by the Spirit. I care for you when I see you need something you care for someone else when you see they need something. We are not forced, but we do it by our own free will as each of us is united with our Master, receiving His sap. We do it out of love. 1 Jn 3:17 — If you see someone in need and you do not give to them, how can the love of God be in you? Just like Rom 5:5 says, we have the love of God. But if we do not use that love to give liberally, it may be that His love is not in our heart. So we are to be on the lookout for brothers who have needs. Some who have more than they need give to those who have less than they

need. The first church didn't have one needy person because they shared what they had. It was not forced; they gave because they wanted to. We give because the love of God has been poured out in our hearts. We are not communists exercising forced equality; it is a freewill offering. If we are led by the Spirit there will be equality. We should be led by the Spirit.

Just remember (Rom 12:1), there is no true worship or service without offering your body as a living sacrifice. You cannot render service to Him as priests without doing this. This is the only way you can worship Him. Everything we do is in vain unless our bodies are given to Him as a living sacrifice.