

because I feel I am not on parade; I'm not trying to influence the ungodly-- I am dealing with a real Christian who is perhaps better than I am.

And he may have just a veneer. He may have been brought up in a fine Christian environment, and he may be following along by habit in the direction he's gone before but never have known Jesus Christ personally. Each of us has a responsibility toward those who are moral and decent and good, and toward those who seem to us to be beyond redemption to witness the Word of Christ. Because in this very ch. Jesus said, He prayed not for the world, but he prayed not merely for his disciples either.

In v. 20 he said, My prayer is not for them alone. I pray also for those who will believe in me thru their message. So the ~~message~~ method God ordinarily uses to bring individuals into his kingdom is through the testimony of others. The unity of those who believe in Christ.

Now the third element of this I want to call your attention to is the fact that all believers together constitute the body of Christ and therefore the unity the believers. This is brought out very strongly here in this ch., and very strongly in Eph. 4.

Let us look at Eph. 4:11-13, and then at v. 15. We skip over v. 14 simply because it brings in another thought, we don't want to take time for now. (Eph. 4:11-14, and v. 15 )

The unity of all true believers. The body of Christ is not made up of a denomination, of a sect, of a local church. Of a particular organization. It is made up of all those who are truly saved by Christ. Why is this called the body of Christ? My body is a few chemical elements. It is maybe billions of wonderful organisms, all working together. Once my spirit leaves it it is just a mass of clay, a bit of earth. No value. But without it I could accomplish practically nothing. As far as I know nothing in this world without this body.

It is the machine through which I can work. It is the means through which I can accomplish things. And the body of Christ is a means through which He chooses to accomplish His will in the world. And each one who believes in Christ is a part of this body. It is a part of a unified thing. He has a purpose for each part in it. We have within our bodies all sorts of various liquids, all sorts of various structures. And if one should try to take on the function of the other we would be in great difficulty.

If my pancreas tried to do what my kidneys should do or if my heart tries to do what my lungs should do, I am in difficulty. Each part of me has its function, and knows its function and carries on. Now we don't always know what our functions are in the body of Christ. He has not revealed them unto us. I'm not sure the pancreas and the kidneys know what