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The Heavenly Body

As you probably know, Keren, Soraya, and I took a trip last weekend to Missouri to meet and share together with some other women. There were women there from a few different states, and we just spent a couple days talking together and sharing Christ. It was really beautiful. What was really amazing for me was the one view we all shared and how we really just talked about one thing.

I was telling them about our church here in Costa Rica, how wonderful it is, and how we really don't have anything to share but Christ. Our little church doesn't have anything that resembles a normal church – no music, children's church, building, bank account, etc. I know you all come here just because you want to share the Lord, and we have nothing to offer each other other than that.

What's really been on my mind is the Body of Christ and what a sacred and precious thing it is. When we talk about the Church we have to remember that it's only something that can be seen with the Lord's perspective. There are a million ideas out there about what the Body is, or should be, or should do. But the Church is Christ. It is the Body of Him, and we can only see the Body from a heavenly perspective. You can't look at the Church from an earthly view.

Julie, our friend from the church in Ohio, talked about our journey growing in Christ and how He brings us to see the Body.

When we begin seeing Christ it starts out very individualistic.....me and Him. But as we grow, that view begins to expand. We slowly start to see that we have been brought into more than just an individual relationship with Christ. We start to see that we were brought into Christ's relationship with the Father, and that that relationship includes the Church. But it's not me and a bunch of other believers and Christ all coming together; it's One Being – Christ. The Church *is* Christ.....and we're all hidden in there in Him.

It helps me to think about it like this. We start out with seeing Christ *in us* and all that that means for our lives. But as we grow up in Him, He brings us to a view of *us in Him*. And not just me in Him, but us in Him.....the whole Body tucked away in Him. Hidden in Him. And instead of a me-centered view of Christ, He brings us to see the big picture – the Body. His purpose. It's really Him bringing us from provision.....to purpose.

We could stay there in that place of personal relationship with Him and have all of our needs met, but we would never come into His purpose. His purpose for us is to be the Body. The Body is meant to be a display of Christ. Just as we express ourselves through our body, Christ is expressed through the Church.

When I was there in Missouri, I was thinking about how beautiful it is that the Lord brings us from all these different places to the exact same place – Christ. The cross. We all have very different natural lives with different circumstances, but He's bringing us all in, regardless of where we come from, to this same point. He deals with each of us the exact same way,

according to the cross, showing us the division.

T.A. Sparks said, "The revelation of the Body is based upon a revelation and an application of the Cross."

To really be able to see the Body from a heavenly perspective, we have to first be willing to see the cross – our complete death at the cross. Because only one Life was resurrected – Christ. There is no place for our natural man in the Church.

Ephesians 5:25 says, "Christ loved the church and gave Himself for her." The Church is the reason Christ went to the cross. But the cross was the end of our life. That's the point. Our lives cannot be a part of the Church. The Church is one thing, one Person, and nothing else. It is something very pure, and in God's eyes, the Church is complete and perfect. Because it's Christ and nothing else!

Col. 3:3 describes it perfectly: "For you have died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God."

"The Oneness of the Church, the Body of Christ demands that not only our sins should have been put away, but that we should have been put away in the flesh. The natural man corrupts things, spoils things, divides. We know it is the ferment of the flesh that works against the unity of the Body, brings about schisms, upsets the positive spiritual functioning of the Lord's people in spiritual oneness. It is the flesh that does it all." - Sparks

Fellowship in the Body is something to be guarded and treated as so precious. It is sacred. It cannot be touched with human hands. The Church is Christ, and it is perfect and complete.

"The differences which exist do not touch this ultimate fact that there is a realm in which there is a togetherness, a oneness, a corporateness which is unaffected by anything that is of man in himself. There is a heavenly Body, unaffected and untouched by earth." - Sparks

Eph. 2

We were...

*...raised together
...seated together
...gathered together into One
...framed together
...builded together*

"And so, you see, God's House is not a 'thing,' it is not a 'place' – it is not anything that man makes; it is something spiritual. One what ground does it rest? It rests on the ground of the Cross. God's House in the wilderness – the Tabernacle – came after the Altar, and stood as the background to the Altar. In this present age, the Church is the background to the Cross of Christ, for it only comes by the Cross. What does the Cross do? It sets man aside, and makes room for God; it puts man out that God may be all and in all." - Sparks

Isa 66:1 Thus saith the LORD, The heaven is my throne, and the earth is my footstool: where is the house that ye build unto me? and where is the place of my rest?

Act 7:48 Yet the Most High does not dwell in houses made by hands.

2Ch 2:6 But who is able to build him an house, seeing the heaven and heaven of heavens cannot contain him? who am I then, that I should build him an house, save only to burn sacrifice before him?

1Co 12:13 For by one Spirit are we all baptized into one body, whether we be Jews or Gentiles, whether we be bond or free; and have been all made to drink into one Spirit.

Rev 21:3 And I heard a great voice out of heaven saying, Behold, the tabernacle of God is with men, and he will dwell with them, and they shall be his people, and God himself shall be with them, and be their God.

Eph 2:19 So then you are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God, 20 built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Christ Jesus himself being the cornerstone, 21 in whom the whole structure, being joined together, grows into a holy temple in the Lord. 22 In him you also are being built together into a dwelling place for God by the Spirit.