

## God's People Are Working People

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by Wayne Goff

**H**ow many times have preachers reminded the congregations where they preach that the church is composed of *people – working people!* **Ephesians 4:16** reads “*From whom the whole body, joined and knit together by what every joint supplies, according to the effective working by which every part does its share, causes growth of the body for the edifying of itself in love.*”

The message from God here is that the church will fare just as well as *each member* and *every member* fares. A few members cannot do the work for the whole body; every member is important and if even one member is missing, absent, or unworking, then the body (church) is harmed and compromised. Christ's body, the church, does not have even one unimportant member!

**Ephesians 4:16** suggests several ideas that we need to consider. First, the body is joined and knit together. Secondly, it is united by the supply of each member. Thirdly, each member is to work according to his/her ability. Fourth, these things combined result in true growth.

It is a sad fact that some members of the body are so weak that they feel little or no tie to the other members. They come on Sunday morning, associate with no one while they are here, go home and receive no strength, encouragement, or help from anyone during the week, and if all goes well they may or may not return next Sunday morning. Such a picture is not painted in the Scriptures, but it is too often the view today. A **committed member** is one who not only attends all the public services of the church, but also volunteers to do his/her part in the work which God has assigned for the church, according to the ability which God has given him/her. A **committed member** realizes that even such menial tasks as mowing the lawn, cleaning the building, and preparing communion requires **someone**. Moreover, based on their talent they may also teach a class, take part in leading the worship in prayer, or singing, or Scripture reading, or teaching. Many hours are spent in preparation **before** the worship or **before** the class, in order that the job may be done. The **committed member**, if new, will offer to do whatever needs to be done, based on the talent that member may possess. I have often wondered to myself just what it is that moves a person from the category of **uncommitted** to **committed**. My educated guess is that the committed have a stronger faith and are able to look up and see the need. To be sure, every **committed member** of the body is a **taught** member of the body, and a **willing** member.

Brother or sister, how do you view yourself? Are you a **worker** in the vineyard of the Lord (Jn. 15), or are you a **shirker** who lets someone else do it? Do you feel that the success of this body of believers depends on **you**, or on **them**?

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