

What does it mean to be the Body of Christ, in the world, for the world for the Glory of God?

The Body of Christ is a broad term that describes a group that has many, many members. The Body of Christ may be a small, medium or large group of many different kinds of believers that collectively create a mass of people who are called to do the Lord's work. The work they do is in the world, for the world, and should glorify God. The body of Christ is made up of many followers of Christ. That is, to be a member of the body of Christ is to be a believer and a worshiper of Christ. A follower of Christ will also be a lover of people, especially widows, orphans and strangers, the poor, aka "the least of these."

Members of the body of Christ seek out opportunities to minister to "the least of these." They show love and acceptance to the ones less fortunate in the world. They will mow lawns for senior citizens and disabled folks. They will do whatever it takes to get the job done. They may seek to join faith-based organizations or churches to be able to use the talents and gifts they are blessed with to bless others. This could be in a paid position or as a volunteer. In either case, they can be a listening ear to a single mother who is living in a homeless shelter, encouraging her to think positively and be thankful, even when things do not seem to be working out. It may be praying for the person who just lost their job and does not know where to turn. That is what Jesus taught his followers to do. This is called ministry.

There are great blessings for those who minister to a hurting soul or a "not yet" Christian. They have the mission to win them to Christ. This is called doing God's Will with an obedient heart to love mankind and each other. We are called to love and minister to our neighbors. As an example, it was prophesied in scripture:

Isaiah 61:1 NIV The spirit of the Sovereign Lord is upon me;
because the Lord has anointed me to preach good news to the poor.
He has sent me to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim freedom for the captives,
and release from darkness for the prisoners,
to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor
and the day of vengeance of our God,
to comfort all who mourn, and to provide for those who grieve in Zion.
To bestow on them a crown of beauty
instead of ashes, the oil of gladness instead of mourning,
and a garment of praise instead of a spirit of despair.
They will be called oaks of righteousness,
a planting of the Lord,
for the display of His splendor.

That is one powerful message and is one that each member of the Body of Christ is called to fulfill. The scripture in the New Testament or the fulfillment of the Isaiah 61:1 verse is found in:

Luke 4:18 NIV "The Spirit of the Lord is upon me,
because he has anointed me

to preach good news to the poor.
He has sent me to proclaim freedom for the prisoners
and recovery of sight for the blind,
to release the oppressed,
to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor.”

It is very clear that we are to be ministers and helpers to the “least of these.” We are clearly called to love the unloveable, the less fortunate and those who are not yet Christians. This is what it is “To be the Body of Christ in the world, for the world, for the Glory of God.” I am very thankful to be able to minister to many different people in my daily walk. I have been blessed to minister to and encourage many future “oaks of righteousness.” For this I give God the Glory.