

INTRODUCTION: Mark 10:28-30 vs. cases of discouragement, grief, isolation, and alienation.

TEXT: 1 Corinthians 12:24B, "God has so composed the body, giving more abundant honor to that *member* which lacked, 25 so that there may be no division in the body, but *that* the members may have the same care for one another. 26 And if one member suffers, all the members suffer with it; if *one* member is honored, all the members rejoice with it."

DISCUSSION OF THE TEXT:

1. Members should care for one another.

- A. The Greek word for "care" is translated by some form of "worry" 11 times, "anxious" one time, "concern" 5 times, and "care" 3 times. The point is not to sinfully worry, but to be genuinely concerned. Philippians 2:19-24.
- B. Genuine concern is reflected in actions, not just sentiments. 1 John 3:16-18. If we really care for someone, we get to know them, praise them when they do right, correct them when they do wrong, notice when they are missing, check to see if they are alright, do what we can to meet their needs, etc.
- C. Caring is something we do, not a way we feel. Yes, we need to feel brotherly love, but we get it by doing. If you want to feel care, do care. Reach out in times of grief and joy. Hospital visits, wedding showers, etc.

2. Members should have the same care for one another.

- A. Same care as what? As we have for any member. 1 Corinthians 12:26.
- B. Yes, I know it's okay to have people to whom we're especially close. Jesus certainly did. But, He didn't have favorites because He played favorites. He cared for everyone. Anyone could become especially close to Jesus.
- C. Jesus expects the same of us. Body analogy – the foot's splinter, the head's reaction, the hand's work. Wouldn't it be frustrating if our head couldn't make our hands help our foot? Jesus is telling us, His hands, to appreciate the weak, honor those we don't honor, help our less presentable members become more presentable. 1 Corinthians 12:22-24. Don't be selective, care for all!

3. There should be no divisions among members in the body. 1 Corinthians 1:10. If you've got a great thing going, don't be cliquish. Share the love. I understand the bonds of blood kin. But I also understand the bonds of Blood kin. Our "family" must include both. Matthew 12:46-50; Romans 12:10.

SOME CONCLUDING THOUGHTS:

1. All ages need to think about those who don't feel the Mark 10:28-30.
2. Act on the belief that it is more blessed to give than to receive.
3. It's not just a numbers problem.
4. Step back up.
5. Look for reasons why we can and will, not for reasons why we can't or won't.
6. If we aren't feeling the Mark 10:28-20, don't wait, make it happen. The Matthews' example.
7. Watch getting entangled and being deceived by entanglements. Mark 4:18-19. If we are perpetually too busy to be hospitable, to love strangers, we are just too busy.
8. Don't give up. Support your brethren, *all* your brethren!
9. Little things mean a lot. Little beginnings, little deeds of kindness.
10. Be realistic.
 - A. We can't do everything, but we can do what we can.
 - B. We won't win them all. We must learn what we can, but we must realize it's not all about us.