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Divine Relations

The Body of Christ is the church and He is the Head of the Body which is Christ. The church then must have a very close relation to Christ. Because He is its Head and it is His body. It is the instrument through which He does His work in the world. It is His body and He speaks of the various parts of the body and tells how the hand must not feel that it is better than the foot or the eye better than the ear, they all have parts in the body, they all have particular function and their function may be very different from that of another part of the body, yet they are very definitely part of the body. The Body of Christ is the instrument through which Christ works in this present age. And how truly are we acting as parts of His body? That is a question we all need to constantly ask ourselves. Is my life accomplishing what it should as a part of the Body of Christ, as His instrument for doing His work in the world? How ~~much~~<sup>much</sup> of my activity goes into giving myself personal pleasure? Helping myself to get along? Doing that which I enjoy doing? And how much of my time and energy ~~goes~~ goes into acting as a portion of the Body of Christ.? This is a very important question for a minister.

You know there is no area in the world in which it is easy to be lazy ~~as~~ than as a minister of an established church somewhere. And there is also no area in the world in which it is easier to kill oneself by overwork than as a minister of a church. A minister is to a very large extent on his own. He does not have other people watching over him, seeing exactly how he spends his time and how he spends his activity. And so I think it is very important for those who are planning to be ministers in the service of Christ to get in the habit of thinking each day, How much of my time this day has been spent in doing the work of a portion of the body of Christ? How much of it has been spent doing that which I simply happen to enjoy doing, or which is needful as much as for our own continuing, for our own progress, for our own existence? A large amount of time has to be given to these matters. But they surely are secondary ~~to~~ to that which is a part of our function as a part of the Body of Christ.

And then as to the relation of Christ to the church, this figure of the Body brings out into strong relief something that is stressed over and over in the Scripture in connection with the matter of the Bride, but more particularly in connection with this