

their functions are, but they are directed by nerves from the brain and they do what they are directed to do. Each of us has direct access to Christ, but we are one unified structure. We are the body of Christ that He uses for the accomplishing of His purpose.

In 1 Cor. you remember, Paul speaks about the parts of the body saying together, You are not as good as I am. How silly! The eye can't hear a thing, the ear can't see a thing but they are both very vital in our lives. Each one who belongs to the body of Christ has his function, in God's work. The unity of true believers.

This is brought out so clearly in Eph. 4 -- a section that has impressed me more and more in recent years. But you notice that we have as the body of Christ, this unity, we have a function which is not automatic. Nobody says to my lungs, You work with the heart. You cleanse the blood from the heart and use it. Or to the heart, You pump blood thru the head so the head can have the value of this. It all fits so that it works, you might say, automatically.

But in our case we have to learn what our part is in the body of Christ, and we have to recognize our unity in it. Eph. 4 says, Make every effort to keep the unity of the spirit in the bonds of peace. There is one body and one spirit The unity of all true believers is greatly stressed in this chapter. chapter.

Now this unity is not necessarily mean a human organization. We spoke of unity and diversity; of unity and autonomy. There is no autonomy as over against God. But every believer has a large measure of autonomy as over against any other believer.

I remember hearing about a woman once who went to a man and said, The Lord has revealed to me that you are to marry me. The man said to her, If that is the Lord's will, I think he would reveal it to me too! We each get our directions from the Lord. As we study his word and find what his purposes are for us. No one of us has a right to tell some other person what that person's part in God's activity is. But every one of us has a duty to help others when we see others diverging from the path that is set for them in Scripture.

Everyone of us has a duty to try to help others to make the fullest use of their potentialities. Because this unity of true believers does not mean an earthly human organization. The Roman Catholic church is a powerful human organization. Theoretically the Pope is the autocrat; he gives his orders to the cardinals and to the bishops and they pass them on to the priests. There is one great organization directed from above and accomplishing the work the organization desires to do.

But you know I have enjoyed many times going into the greatest ecclesiastical edifice in Christendom -- St. Peter's church in Rome, the headquarters of the R.C. church. A tremendously large building. A few of the popes are buried there.