



"And this is the commandment we have from Him, that the one who loves God should love his brother also." 1 John 4: 21

---

**Sunday – March 12, 2023**

## Heart to Heart...

I was speaking with a man the other day that had some toes amputated. He was really struggling with this and my heart hurt for him. As he spoke about it, tears slowly falling, he said he really would miss those parts of his body.

My mind went forward thinking about the church, the body of Christ Jesus. We are many members but joined to one body and that being Christ (I Corinthians 12:12). As part of Christ's body, how vital are you? ***"But speaking the truth in love, we are to grow up in all aspects into Him who is the head, even Christ, from whom the whole body, being fitted and held together by what every joint supplies, according to the proper working of each individual part, causes the growth of the body for the building up of itself in love."*** (Ephesians 4:15-16) We have been fitted and held together because of Christ. We are to help by our growing in Jesus to cause the growth of the body (the church) to build up in love. As we grow upward into Jesus it grows the church! This helps us realize the seriousness of our walk with Jesus. It helps us see how vital our part in Christ Jesus has become. I don't know what part of the body you are, but you have been placed into His body by God just as He desired (I Corinthians 12:18). Your place is not where I want you to be or where someone else wants you to be. Your place in Christ's body is from God and that makes it more important to grow upward into Christ Jesus as your part is important.

*"According to the proper working of each individual part."* When body parts become sickly and start affecting the whole, amputation is the only alternative. The Lord will do that to those who aren't growing up into Him.

Here's the question to ask: if you were absent, would you be missed? Would your absence have any effect on the body? I would pray that as a part of Christ's body, we would be missed, even one time because we are growing upward into Christ, supplying to His body what He desires. It doesn't matter what part of the body you are. Just as the man speaking that he was struggling with missing two toes, it was part of him and had a profound effect on his heart, so we also, if we are tied to Jesus, would be missed because we are all attached to the same body where Jesus Christ is head. If we aren't missed, should that concern us? What does that say about our attachment to Christ? It makes me wonder why some people say they don't feel like they belong. Does that reveal they may not be attached? Think about it!!!

*Brent*