

We nurture and are nurtured. Nurture is used by the Holy Spirit to move individual believers and the body as a whole toward spiritual maturity. We intergenerationally disciple and are disciplined, instruct and are instructed, shepherd and are shepherded, discipline and receive correction, and fellowship with one another in the bond created by and the power of the sovereign Holy Spirit.

Seeing What God Says, Part 5 Nurture: Why Need Each Other

I Corinthians

Going beyond the façade

Recalculating

Responsive Reading from 1 Corinthians 12

Why You Need Covenant Membership in a Local Body of Christ

1. God has arranged it this way (12:8)

The Holy Spirit distributes gifts needed for spiritual growth (12:11)

We are His Body for which He gave His life (Ephesians 5:25-27; 32)

2. The body is the context for interactive growth

The gifts are given for others

You do not have all the gifts necessary to grow spiritually

Spiritual growth is most frequently couched in relational terms
Ephesians 4:25-5:1; 1 Thessalonians 5:11

3. We forget we are at war

The internal battle Romans 7:23; 1 Peter 2:11; 1 Timothy 6:11

The external eruption of the internal battle James 4:1

When you are at war things are simplified

a. "big boy rules" Romans 13:12; 2 Corinthians 6:7; 10:3-4

b. you carry weight for your brothers Romans 15:1-3;
Philippians 2:2-4

Bring your thinking into line with one another, in this way: hold on to the same love; bring your innermost lives into harmony with each other; set your minds on the same object; do nothing from selfish ambition or vanity, but in humility reckon each other as superior to yourselves; don't look after your own interests but after each others.'

c. your fear and the fatigue of battle are controlled by

1. your conviction for your cause
2. your devotion to your unit
3. your regard for your leader

The X-factor "Whether this factor was conscious or unconscious is debatable, but this is not so important. The important thing was that it is influenced greatly by devotion to their group or unit, by regard for their leader, and by conviction for their cause. In the average soldier, which most of them were, this factor . . . enabled men to control their fear and combat their fatigue to a degree that they themselves did not believe possible." Herbert Spiegel, 1944