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HOMEOSTASIS – (Balance and equilibrium within an organism)

In the medical sense homeostasis is applied to human life when everything is in complete balance and order, that is, total health for body and soul (though as Christians we would add “spirit” to this equation). I was struck when I discovered that, medically speaking there is the expectation of a state of perfect balance, which as we know, will never exist because of the DNA of sin. My discovery was also a reminder of the “Eighty Twenty Principle” which states that in the natural body all the parts need to be balanced for us to function as God intended.

In the church setting we are described as “The Body of Christ” and Paul explains that every one of us “Is a vital and necessary part.” Therefore in order for the church to enjoy a state of “HOMEOSTASIS” we need to be in right relationship with each other. This applies to both our personal attitude and our function within the local church. As the Body of Christ this means making sure we do not say or do anything to attack another member of the body. For example, in the natural body the auto immune system sometimes attacks it because it believes that the body is an enemy. However, there is no cure for self destruction. Cancer is a similar disease. It is the result of our own damaged cells multiplying themselves at the expense of the rest of the body. They gladly use all the services the body supplies but they are not recognised by the immune system as dangerous because they are of the same family. Only recently has research focused on methods of stimulating the immune system to attack the cancer cells. The parallel between the spiritual and the natural should not escape us. The church often self destructs because it does not maintain or work to create “HOMEOSTASIS.”

We are told to forgive each other up to 70 X 7 and to be generous with mercy and love. Paul describes it as follows; “Be humble and gentle. Be patient with each other, making allowance for each other’s faults because of your love. Try always to be led along together by the Holy Spirit and so be at peace with one another. We are all parts of one body, we have the same Spirit and we have all been called to the same glorious future.”

The second part to “HOMEOSTASIS” is that each member of the body has to perform the function for which it was designed. We cannot be in balance if one of several parts quit or is prevented from performing the purpose for which it is intended. Therefore, it is not only our personal responsibility but also that of church structure to allow each part to function. On a personal level, it is our duty to discover what “God’s calling” is for us but it is also necessary for the “structure” to recognise and release that calling within the framework of the church. This is the pattern we are endeavouring to follow in this church and so we encourage each one to join us on this wonderful adventure in being a functioning part of the Body of Christ.

The third consequence of “HOMEOSTASIS” is that every action each member makes impacts the whole body to some degree. Part of my brain was recently starved of blood by a stroke and this impacted ALL the left side of my body. There is nothing that I do in my body that is isolated; every thought, every action has consequence, either good or bad. This is also true for the local church. We ALL feel the results of each other’s behaviour, whether we are aware of it or not. Therefore it behooves us to not focus on self but on Christ because we are parts of HIS BODY.

Fourthly, every part of the body is connected to the head and the flow of instructions comes from the brain. Unless we submit to Jesus as the Head of our personal lives then we will never achieve “HOMEOSTASIS” with Him. Just as in the Godhead there is a perfect balance of submission, interdependence, and structure; so it must be within both our personal and church life.

Our actions in the local church impact the church as a whole; first in the region, then the province, then the country and finally the world!! What happens in our corner has consequence for the church universal whether we like it or not. The theory of Quantum Physics is based on the principle that the flapping of a butterfly's wings in Brazil can be the first movement of air in an eventual cyclone. Every action, every thought when added to others becomes part of change either for good or bad. This same principle can be reflected in the Church as we become more like Jesus; God's DNA will connect us more effectively as one Body of Christ. This sheds new light on the prayer of Jesus; "I in them and You in Me, all being perfected in one – SO THAT THE WORLD WILL KNOW THAT YOU SENT ME AND WILL UNDERSTAND THAT YOU LOVE THEM AS MUCH AS YOU LOVE ME." We will be in "HOMEOSTASIS" with Jesus and the Father; only then will the world will see Jesus – His church, His body. Jesus said; "When I am lifted up I will draw all men unto Me." He also taught us to pray; "Your Kingdom come, Your will be done on earth just as it is in heaven" – complete "HOMEOSTASIS."

Shalom.

Ron Harris

