

## Discerning the Body

*(From a social meeting with Yônêq & ha-êmeq and some of the leaders of Benyamin.)*

We can't break bread until we're able to discern the body (1 Cor 11:29). He is the head of *the Body* which is the church (Col 1:18). We should not underestimate one of "us" or judge a member as an insignificant part of the Body of Messiah — the community of disciples (Acts 2:44). We must hear all and work together — as "all" were *together*, making up the Body of Messiah in Jerusalem.

Eph 1:22-23 and Col 1:18 de-mystifies the church, Messiah's Body. It is in fact His very Body. There is no difference between the *body* at the right hand of the Father and the *body* of the church. This is why Messiah asked Paul, "Why do you persecute Me?" while on the road to Damascus to persecute the community of disciples. Since He is the head of the Body, He also provides leadership to oversee and govern the affairs of that body.

All who are led by the one Spirit are the sons of God (Rom 8:14). What does it mean to be led by the Spirit? Do we think of this as something mystical? It actually means to discern the Body. And if we do, it will result in absolute coordination within the body of Messiah. The gifting and graces in the Body provide leadership, remedy — bringing health to the whole Body. Heb 13:17 — We heed these kinds of leaders that help all parts of the body to function fully. Then the growth of the Body is proper and it results in bringing about the "complete (mature) man" (Eph 4:13).

### Led by the Spirit

In order to discern the Body, we have to listen and be led by the Spirit *through each other*. We have to learn who has greater grace, even if the leaders are not necessarily the most perfect examples at this time. We have to be like servants were to their masters in how we work in co-ordination in the Body. We submit to our crew head and do not criticize our leaders. Otherwise, pretty soon we won't have any leadership.

Paul told Timothy to not receive the accusation against any leaders without the agreement of two to three reputable brothers (witnesses). He told it to Timothy, who acted as a messenger to the churches. Timothy could find out if there was a legitimate accusation (with cause) or not.

You can see why we send out messengers in every locality where the Body exists, as they apply wisdom and help where there are certain lacks and needs. Messengers (often with their wives) help to provide enlightenment to the communities where they go. These messengers will not come as tyrants, but as those who come under others, providing grace and support, loving those in that “place.” Without messengers we will not ever see the Kingdom of God come (Rev 1). The seven apostolic centers in each tribe will each have a messenger and other messengers serving this leader with additional wisdom and grace. These will represent our Master Yahshua and truly be their brothers’ keepers, guarding and protecting the temple and its courts night and day.

If we’re led by the Spirit, then we’re truly the sons of God. We have to know who we are; for the most part, we haven’t come to that revelation yet. But we have to come to that place. Gal 5:13-16 — *“If you bite and devour one another, take care that you are not consumed by one another. Walk by the spirit and you won’t carry out the desires of the flesh. Love your neighbor as yourself, and through love serve one another.”* If you’re led by the Spirit, you follow and listen. You’re either circumcised or uncircumcised in your hearing. You can tell who is attentive. It has a lot to do with discerning the Body.

We’ve been defiled by Christianity and its mystical body. Satan is continually trying to hinder us from being led by the Spirit, because then there would be no recognition of the sons of God, and spiritually there would be no difference between day and night. If we’re led by the Spirit, it leaves no room for biting and devouring. It all depends on whether we have love for one another, and mutual respect. If we play the *blame game*, it is certain we are not being led by the Spirit. Being led by the Spirit is really listening, because you know He is “in” your brothers and sisters. Often we think we

know better. If we are that way, we're going to have a hard time, because we will end up wanting to lead and not follow. We have to hear and obey what our brothers and sisters have to say. Sometimes, we have in the Body "know it alls" who don't "do it all," but our Father still listens to them if their intent is to obey. What is the Body of Messiah if we don't listen to each other?

### **The Humble Listen**

We live by every word that proceeds out of the mouth of God (1 Pet 4:11). We can't do that without listening to every word. Jer 6:10 — What does it mean to have uncircumcised ears? We can hear, but in our hearts *discredit* the one who is speaking. Deep down, we're afraid of the cost of hearing, and it makes us hard of hearing and resistant. It is rare that we have the kind of *surrender* to really hear every word that proceeds out of the mouth of God (the Body). We're not there yet. We have to recognize the Spirit in one another. If you put conditions on what you're hearing, and how the person said it, you stop really hearing.

When you listen to those who seem to be "the least," you really learn and hear from our Father. You have to listen to those whom He reveals Himself to the most. That's leadership. That's how leaders are chosen. They listen and they hear from everyone and implement what is spoken. You are most secure with the humble man. You could say anything to them and they are at ease, predictable, and respond from a humble heart.

Unless we are listening, heeding these brothers and wives (some of which are even greater in ways than their husbands), then we are not discerning the Body. We heed their instruction as Messiah himself and also respond to it. We do not heed because we do not discern the Body rightly. We do have to judge our wives, but not stifle them in the process. It is evil to put people under "silence" (especially husbands towards their wives). This would identify and indicate worthlessness at work in someone. Our children reflect the lack in their parents of discerning the Body. They don't have the revelation of

*who He is* yet. If they spread discord among the Body, then Pr 6:18-19 says God hates them. Whoever destroys the temple will himself be destroyed (1 Cor 3:16-17). We don't want the Body to malfunction. Would we allow anyone to live in rebellion against the anointing, against our Father's word? Would our leaders allow this?

Some people are straightforward. We've got to be like this – right out there in a positive way, not allowing any shutdown in people. We have to be outspoken in our relationships with one another. This is what makes our love grow for one another (Eph 4:15-16). This is a *good quality*. There's no such thing as "hidden love."

We don't want one person to "call all the shots," but delegate as quickly as possible and discharge duties to others. This can be a lack in us discerning the Body also. There is no void when communication is open. Otherwise, undercurrents get started amongst us and we often get into a place of misjudging one another. This openness also helps us to be taken into hand without fear, being touchable and ultimately changeable.

### **Inner Worth**

If we aren't being honored by our Father then our service is useless to Him (Jn 12:26). We can only serve Him *where He is*. This takes discerning the Body. In this way we glorify Him (1 Pet 4:11). The more you're honored, the more people listen to you. And the more you obey Him, the more He reveals Himself to you (Jn 14:21). And with all of this, our Father adds weight to what we say. Glory is "inner worth." When this is upon a person it gives him "weight."

Sometimes, you can tell people don't listen to others in the Body. It may be the result of how they don't honor their wives or their brothers. If we dishonor our brothers can we expect our Father to honor us? We may tend to think we hear certain leaders or people of reputation in the Body, but unless we have circumcised ears to hear our wives, our parents, our brothers, sisters, teachers, etc., we do not really hear or discern the

Body rightly. Many remain “stuck” and cannot hear properly. That is why there is little progress in their lives spiritually.

Wives are intuitive, sometimes more discerning than husbands. Husbands need to listen to their wives. Otherwise, it can cause chaos in the Body. If you don’t discern your wife, you’re not discerning the Body.

Sekel — We have to go from one situation to the next and not give up when problems arise. We can’t live in a place where peace and love does not exist, but where compromise does. Because if we allow this, we will become a mutation – like a half-way house and not the real Body of Messiah. The tribe of Benjamin needs glory. I grieve wanting us all to flourish so we can lead the way as it speaks about the tribe in the Psalms... and little (humble) Benjamin will lead them (in the procession).

### **Circumcised Ears**

Some people have been here for thirty years with uncircumcised ears (Jer 6:10). “Indeed their ear is uncircumcised (closed) and they cannot give heed (obey). The word of Yahweh is a reproach (odious) to them and they have no delight (revelation) in it.”

Jn 8:43,47 says who can and who cannot respond to His voice. Those who are not able to hear are not of God. If we are of God (God’s sons) then we *can* hear. We will not be sweeping things under the rug, erring on the side of leniency. But we also cannot become tyrants. You know how you can tell whether you have swept things under the rug don’t you? After a while things begin to stink and smell. That is why we take care of things early on, when they happen, not putting them off. It’s just like child training – you deal with things early on while the offense is still within the memory of the child and correction can be made. This will prevent so much needless suffering and turmoil at the expense of the Body. Some think they want to be merciful, but they can also leave a lot of room for defilement to come into the Body that will end up destroying it.

If we don’t love our wives as our Master loves the church, we’re accountable for a grave sin. We have to be led by the Spirit. We have to love. The Body of Messiah has no

tyrants. We can't let sins pile up. We have to deal with things as they come up. Husbands need to listen to their wives, because they are heads to them. Then they can be led by the Spirit if they are leading and providing proper headship. If a wife is in the Spirit, in submission, then she is a helper to her husband. We have to give our wives dignity and recognize their wisdom and grace.

It can be we're not discerning the Body by not letting the Body function by delegating responsibilities to other people, so they feel productive. We have to make sure we're open about everything. That's what community is all about. It's good to bring it all out. We have to be careful not to get offended or be sulky. We must treat one another as we would our Master Yahshua. We want problems to be worked out so our Father can bless us. We want to establish true community.

### **The First Generation and the Stem**

The first generation has to know how to listen to the voice from behind. Opinions are very strong and can divide the Body. In the world, churches divide over what color to paint the church. We have different opinions, but we have to work through differences, which means we have to communicate a lot. Like the cafés we make, they manifest the personality of the Body of Messiah in them, because each part submits one to another. That's what makes them beautiful. In the same way, we have to really communicate to make sure issues are resolved. It is a big adjustment for the voice from behind to communicate and for the first generation to listen.

The first generation cannot be threatened by other people's zeal or knowledge about things, or go to the extreme and just sit back with attitudes and not participate. They have to be very sensitive to the voice from behind, really considering their counsel and appreciate it. Differences have to be resolved by listening to one another. Opinions are strong enough to divide. When you become personally attached to your opinions, that is when division seeks to find entry.

Our first generation is no longer so young; some are thirty years old. We have to adjust our way of thinking. And all those who come into the Body at this age will also be “grafted in” as part of the first generation. Our own children have to be the most humble (having dealt with their iniquities) as they are like the skeleton of the body, providing stability and the context to build the nation. The first generation has to support the “heart” of the stem. They cannot just “do it” and consent (by default) but receive and learn.

It's good to allow things to grow organically so the personality of the Body of Messiah can be developed. This is being *eclectic*. Limited to ourselves, things are very sterile. We have to be very submissive to one another from the heart. This is how the Body grows and develops. If we really hear our Master then we can build according to the design of the temple; everyone functioning leads to fulfillment in the Body of Messiah. We have to give worth to one another, thus weight is placed upon each member. Then we work together as a team, delegating with spiritual focus and impetus. All will be working for the common good.

Those of the stem are behind the first generation in this tribe. This is not so developed yet in all the tribes. This is part of making the land green where we are. Both the stem and the first generation are going to learn how to work together to build the Body of Messiah. There's a lot to learning what stimulates the growth that comes from God (Col 2:19).