

**SEEK THE OLD PATHS SERIES: YOU HAVE A CONTRIBUTION TO MAKE**  
**Jeremiah 6:16**

- A. Though the fool argues against the evidence, man was created by the Almighty (Psm.139).
- B. That man has a divine purpose for which to live is indisputable (Ecc.12:13).
- C. Today, there are many who have yet “to find their place in the church,” though being familiar with Matthew 6:33.
- D. Such individuals primarily lack the type of faith necessary to propel them into greater service.
- E. Yet, 1 Corinthians 12 clearly reveals that every member has a contribution to make to the church.
- F. Each member’s contribution helps the church mature (Eph.4:11-16).
- G. Corinth was divided over spiritual gifts (1Cor.12).
- H. Instead of working together, they were competing—seeing who could out do whom.
- I. In response, Paul uses the human body as an illustration to remind them of the contribution each member must make to the body.
- J. The key point of this lesson is to remind or encourage us to remember what we owe the body of Christ.
- K. For organizational purposes, the body may be considered at four levels.
- L. Do you know your place/purpose in the body?

**I. ARE YOU A CELL?**

- A. The smallest unit of life within the body is the cell.
- B. “Cell” comes from the Latin word meaning “room.”
- C. The cell is microscopic, which means that it cannot be seen with the naked eye.
- D. The human body is said to have 60, 000 billion cells, every one of them subject to the rules and regulations of the group.
- E. On average, each cell is less than a thousandth of an inch.
- F. Some 40,000 red blood cells will fit into the letter O.
- G. We have about a million cells in every square inch of our skin and about thirty billion in our brains, it is estimated.
- H. Cells come in different types, sizes, and shapes, depending upon the kind of work they were designed to do.
- I. The shape of the cell is related to its designed function.
- J. Red blood cells are saucer-shaped and fairly flat, permitting the ready transfer of oxygen and carbon dioxide they carry through the body, while nerve cells have long, thin extensions to transmit messages.
- K. The Bible is scientifically right when it states: “For the life of all flesh is in the blood” (Lev.17:11).

**II. ARE YOU A TISSUE?**

- A. A group of the same kind of cells carrying on the same activity is called a tissue.
- B. There are several kinds of tissue in the body (e.g. muscle, nerve, etc.).
- C. Tissues serve various functions throughout the body.
  - 1. Tissues may be hard (bone), semisolid, (fat), or even liquid (blood) in their consistency.
  - 2. There are four types of tissue: epithelial covers the external body surface, as the epidermis, the outer most layer of the skin, line hollow organs, body cavities, and also forms glands.
  - 3. Connective tissue protects and supports the body and its organs. The varied types of tissue bind organs together, store energy reserves as fat, help provide immunity to disease causing organisms.

4. Muscular tissue generates the physical force necessary to make the body structures move.
5. Nervous tissue detects changes inside and outside the body and responds by generating impulses that help maintains blood flow through veins.

### **III. ARE YOU AN ORGAN?**

- A. A group of different tissues, all working together in harmony, is called an organ.
- B. Organs such as the heart, liver, eyes, conduct special activities within the body.
- C. The eye is a sensory organ; it is the body's "guiding light" leading it away from harm and danger, if needed.
- D. The heart primarily circulates blood through the body.
- E. The ears serve an important purpose as well.
- F. The skin is the largest organ of the body.

### **IV. ARE YOU PART OF A SYSTEM?**

- A. A group of organs carrying out special bodily function is a system.
- B. The human body consists of ten systems. You are either one of or part of one of those systems.
- C. The skin system consists of three areas: the skin layers, the glands, and hair and nails.
- D. The skin contains two major layers—epidermis (top) and the dermis, which contains nerves and blood vessels.
- E. The upper layers of the skin are dead and are constantly being replaced by newly formed cells.
- F. When a cut finger draws blood, the dermis has been reached.
- G. The dermis contains two kinds of glands—sweat and oil.
- H. The skeletal system supports the organs and tissues.
- I. Bones are like the interior framework of a house.
- J. Bones are strong enough to support weight and carry burdens, yet flexible enough to cushion shocks and allow for motion.
- K. Each foot contains 26 bones.
- L. The feet support, with arches comparable to a bridge.
- M. The feet operate as levers when one presses the automobile accelerator pedal. Feet act like hydraulic jacks when one tip-toes.
- N. They catapult a person as he jumps.
- O. They act as a cushion for legs when they are running.

### **CONCLUSION**

- A. God uses the body as an illustration for reasons—harmony and individual purpose.
- B. You may be as the cell, small, but very important to the overall work of the body; you do not have to be seen to contribute.
- C. You may be as the tissue providing energy, fighting off diseases, or keeping things connected in the body.
- D. You may be one of the organs providing a key function within the body.
- E. You may be part of a system, working alongside others in an effort to help the body operate properly.
- F. Whatever your role, it is important to the overall success of the body.