

Title: Cohesive motion
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2 Corinthians 2:14 *Now thanks be to God who always leads us in triumph in Christ, and through us diffuses the fragrance of His knowledge in every place.*

The scripture above implies movement: We must learn to sync with God's movement

Some of Jesus' harshest sayings were directed at people who weren't in sync with His movements

Matt 8:18-23 *And when Jesus saw great multitudes about Him, He gave a command to depart to the other side. Then a certain scribe came and said to Him, "Teacher, I will follow You wherever You go." And Jesus said to him, "Foxes have holes and birds of the air have nests, but the Son of Man has nowhere to lay His head." Then another of His disciples said to Him, "Lord, let me first go and bury my father." But Jesus said to him, "Follow Me, and let the dead bury their own dead." Now when He got into a boat, His disciples followed Him.*

Luke 9:58-62 is a similar account.

These poor people seem to have noble intentions

What was 'wrong' with their declaration?

We find the answer in verse 23 ...Now when He got into a boat, His disciples followed Him.

There is a cancer that was also prevalent in religious circles during Jesus' time on earth.

Jesus often addressed this very directly when speaking to the scribes and Pharisees.

Scribes & Pharisees – the churchied. Don't exclude yourself from this category too easily!

Matt 6:3 *But when you do a charitable deed, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing,*
The religious spirit motivates us to seek recognition for our deeds.

Obedience that Jesus longs for:

- Swift
- Discrete
- Decisive

This kind of obedience is better than any sacrifice.

1 Sam 15:22 *So Samuel said: "Has the LORD as great delight in burnt offerings and sacrifices, As in obeying the voice of the LORD? Behold, to obey is better than sacrifice, And to heed than the fat of rams.*

Jesus came up with the Nike slogan long before they did: If you're going to follow Me, just do it.

But won't it become a jumbled mess?

Exodus 1:8-9 *Now there arose a new king over Egypt, who did not know Joseph. And he said to his people, "Look, the people of the children of Israel are more and mightier than we*

The exodus had massive logistical implications – more than half the population of the country left the borders at the same time.

God made provision for the logistics to be addressed.

Exodus 13:21-22 *And the Lord went before them by day in a pillar of cloud to lead the way, and by night in a pillar of fire to give them light, so as to go by day and night. He did not take away the pillar of cloud by day or the pillar of fire by night from before the people.*

- Even though Moses lead the Israelites out of Egypt, they could all see where they were heading
- Biblical leadership brings focus to a picture that we can already see
- Biblical leadership puts a route to a destination that is already decided and agreed

The pillar of cloud and fire represents the work of the Holy Spirit today.

1Cor 12:12-14 *For as the body is one and has many members, but all the members of that one body, being many, are one body, so also is Christ. For by one Spirit we were all baptized into one body—whether Jews or Greeks, whether slaves or free—and have all been made to drink into one Spirit. For in fact the body is not one member but many.*

- Lets presume that “the body” is a person - An engineer
- This person has a specific destiny
- This person has many different members – Eyes that probably require glasses, a reserved personality, analytical approach

Among the members are also those whose function may seem unrelated to the engineer’s destination.

Example: The pancreas regulates glucose levels and releases digestive enzymes.

This may not seem to relate directly to the destination, but is still critical.

Each member serves the body by whole heartedly performing its designated function.

Mind shift required:

Global church = His body

Local church = members of His body

Believers seldom disagree about the destination.

Contentions and disunity often arises when the day to day activities within the local church seem removed from the destination of the global body.

1 Corinthians 12:27-30 *Now you are the body of Christ, and members individually. And God has appointed these in the church: first apostles, second prophets, third teachers, after that miracles, then gifts of healings, helps, administrations, varieties of tongues. Are all apostles? Are all prophets? Are all teachers? Are all workers of miracles? Do all have gifts of healings? Do all speak with tongues? Do all interpret?*

Conclusion:

We don’t have a boat we can climb into like the disciples. How can we do as they did?

The equivalent to us getting into Jesus’ boat and following Him is to wholeheartedly pursue the mandate of the local body, understanding that that is how the global body collectively will thrive.