

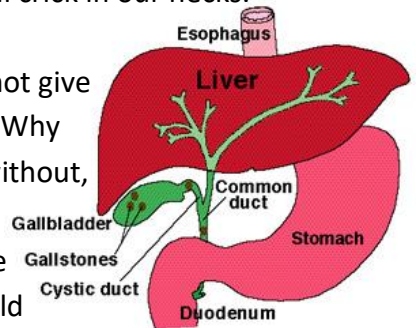


I would like to tell you about something that happened to me recently. Now, I am not writing this in order to have a moan about things – although I very much felt like having a good moan at the time! I want to show you about a sequence of events. I have very poor gums and one day I had to go out for an appointment. It was a cold, windy day and I must have got cold in my gums, which gave me an awful toothache in several teeth. After about three days of this my head was not very good at all. Another few days passed and by this time, because my head was not good, I became very unsteady on my feet. I could not help but think about this strange series of events. I had toothache at one end of my body which made me wobbly at the other end!

The above incident made me consider how wonderfully our bodies have been designed and how the bits and pieces all work together without us even thinking about it. What happens to one bit often affects another. We have a little cut on the end of one finger and we are saying, “Ouch” every time we try to use our hands or pick up anything. Our back aches and we have difficulty in walking. We lie awkwardly at night and wake up with a very painful crick in our necks.



I wonder how God decided on our design? Why did he not give us eyes at the back of our heads as well as at the front? Why did He give us bits inside that we can actually manage without, such as appendixes and gall bladders? One thing I never cease to wonder about is how we stop growing after the age of about twenty. Just think of the problems we would have if we continued to grow at the same rate; I would now be about twenty feet tall!



Houses? Cars? Shoe sizes?

One thing that I do know is how wonderfully the different parts of our bodies all work together. When one part is not so good then it affects the other parts. We function fine when all parts are working normally.

If you have a Bible, please read **1 Corinthians 12: 12 – 26** as this is where my thoughts are for this Doodle.

A ‘Church’ (ie. A group of people, not a building) functions well when all of the parts work together. It only takes one moaner-groaner to give a bad atmosphere or split the Church into groups according to their views on the subject being aired. It can take years to build up a church, but it can be knocked apart by a single incident. In God’s Church it is His intention that folk work together. We may have different opinions about things but we have to learn to keep things in harmony despite those differences.

I suppose that something that can divide a Church very easily is criticism; the main cause often being about the sound or the volume. There are probably over a hundred knobs on the sound desk. Push a knob up a cm too far and the microphones screech, pull it back a cm too far and you get, “I couldn’t hear the preacher.”!



Each person in the Church is trying to do the best job that they can do, even if it is not up to our individual expectations. It is an extremely difficult thing to suit everyone in all aspects of a service and it is something that, as a Church, all of us have to work at. Our tastes in songs, type of preaching and how the Church should be run are all different and it is up to each one of us to bring about a harmony and a working together.



EVERY Person in the Church is important and is used by God to make up the Church. There are some who may only be able to sit there and listen, yet they are still making up part of the Church where God has placed them. The passage in the Bible about the parts of the body, refers to all parts functioning together, regardless of the size of the part that they play.



Church is not just about us getting satisfaction out of a service, it is also about us giving pleasure to other people by what we do, what we say, the encouragement that we give and the smiles that we show. Our presence makes up the Church. If we are missing then there is a piece of the jigsaw missing because our presence is important to God. Obviously there are times when we may be unable or not well enough to attend and it is then that it is necessary for us to be aware of those situations when they occur in the lives of others in the Church so that we can support and assure them that they are still an important part of the Fellowship.



God has not only designed our human bodies but has also decided to put us into groups called 'churches'. The idea of people meeting together for worship was instigated by God many, many years ago. If God has thought that a good idea then it must be good! He is the one who expects the bits and pieces to work together in harmony just as they do in our natural bodies and He has deliberately designed this system because He thinks that it is for our good. The passage in Corinthians explains how things are expected to be, according to His design.

God has a very deep love for every one of us, regardless of who we are. His idea of 'Church' is set up because it is one of His chosen ways in which we can build up relationships, not only with each other, but also with God Himself. Like our physical bodies, we are created to live in harmony with all of the other 'bits and pieces' who make up the Church.

Bits & Pieces