

Balancing the Group with the Individual

Revelation 21:1 – 22:5

Introduction:

- A. In the new world, there will be a massive number of believers
1. Rev 5:9 – people from every t_____, tongue, nation (ethnicity), and kind of people.
 2. Rev 7:9 – they will be too numerous to c_____
 3. Will we lose our individual identity?
- B. In our study today we will see:
1. The g_____ is emphasized
 2. The i_____ is emphasized
 3. How we should strive to keep this balance seen in the new world in the now world.

Analysis (fill in the blanks)

The Corporate Body

H_____ (21:2,10,13)

N_____ Jerusalem (21:2, 10)

B_____ (21:2, 9)

W_____ of the Lamb (21:9)

God's p_____ (21:3)

The Individual Person

To the one who t_____ (21:6)

Each receives an i_____ (21:7a)

Each is God's s_____ (21:7b)

Individual n_____ are recorded (21:27)

S_____ God face to face (22:3-5)

Application

- A. The relationship with the Lord is a personal relationship
1. Jn 17:3 – Eternal life is to k_____ (personally) God and Jesus (see also Matt 7:23; Rom 8:16)
 2. Some overemphasize the personal relationship that they minimize the importance of the corporate relationship
 - a. Church is not about individual worship but c_____ worship (Col 3:16)
 - b. Church is not just about worship but relating to one another as one g_____ (Heb 10:24,25)
 - c. No individual can function
- B. The relationship with the Lord is a corporate relationship - Some overemphasize the corporate relationship and minimize the importance of the individual
1. Emphasizing n_____ as the bottom line
 2. Emphasizing f_____ as the bottom line
 - a) The church of Laodicea was financially r_____ but spiritually poor (Rev 3:14-22)

- b) The church of Smyrna was financially p_____ but spiritually rich (Rev 2:8-11)
- C. How do we keep the balance between the two?
1. Eph 4:15,16 uses an illustration that shows the balance
 - a. The human b_____ illustrates the whole church group
 - b. The j_____ and body parts illustrate the individual believer – as each one does his/her part, the whole group functions effectively.
 - c. The head illustrates J_____. – all must be done under the headship of Jesus.
 2. What part am I?
 - a. First, determine not to be a part that contributes to d_____
 - 1) Avoid g_____
 - 2) Avoid sestructive c_____
 - 3) Avoid g_____ and complaining
 - b. 1 Pet 4:10,11 states that each believer has received a s_____ gift to put to use in serving the church body.
 - 1) S_____ gifts (e.g. teaching, exhortation, leading – Rom 12:6-8)
 - 2) S_____ gifts (e.g. giving, helping, showing mercy – Rom 12:6-8)
 - c. Take opportunities to do all the gifts and God will lead you into a focus that will give you great j_____ and satisfaction in doing.
 3. How it all works together – everyone must receive as another gives – Eph 5:21 (*Be subject to one another in the fear of Christ*)
 - a. As a teacher teaches, everyone must l_____.
 - b. As a helper helps you, you must a_____ that help.

Conclusion – questions to ponder

1. Am I causing any disunity? What am I doing to promote harmony?
2. Am I submitting myself to others when they minister?
3. How might Jesus want me to contribute to the effectiveness of this church body?