

## The “Hidden” Parts Of The Body

The prophet Elijah was at a low point in his life. He had abandoned his post and run away from Israel. When asked by God why he was away from Israel, the prophet said that the children of Israel had forsaken God’s covenant, torn down His altars, and killed His prophets, and only he was left (1 Kings 19:10). The Lord corrected Elijah’s assessment of the circumstances. He was not alone. There were people standing for the Lord and doing His work (v. 18).

Sometimes individual Christians become disappointed in what they perceive to be a lack of interest and involvement in the work of the Lord. They are tempted to see themselves as Elijah did — “I am the only one who is trying to do anything. I must be the only one who cares.”

While there may be situations in which there is only one lone Christian trying to do what is right, for the most part this assessment simply is not true. Paul told the Corinthians that the local church is like a human body (1 Corinthians 12:12-27). Some parts are seen, while some are “hidden” or “unpresentable”: “And those members of the body, which we think to be less honourable, upon these we bestow more abundant honour; and our uncomely parts have more abundant comeliness” (v. 23). But all parts of the body are equally important.

Some of what we do to serve is done in the open. We see the efforts of those who preach, lead singing, teach a Bible class, prepare communion, and welcome visitors. However, we rarely see those who are inviting their friends to the assemblies, visiting the sick, cooking meals for those who are recovering, sending cards to the bereaved, setting good examples before unbelievers, and praying for the church. Don’t dishonor them by assuming they are doing nothing.

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