

WHAT DID YOU EXPECT?



One thing seems to characterize increasing numbers of believers and seekers:

Disappointment

"Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has passed away, and see, the new has come!"

2 Corinthians 5

So where is this "new creation"?

Most people who claim to be "in Christ" live lives that are indistinguishable from those of unbelievers.

"Now as we have many parts in one body, and all the parts do not have the same function, in the same way we who are many are one body in Christ and individually members of one another."

Romans 12

One body? Why the churches we visit seem more like spiritual supermarkets rather than families of faith. Take your goodies, pay the cashier, and take off!

You expected to see what the scriptures promised? Then look where the scriptures point.

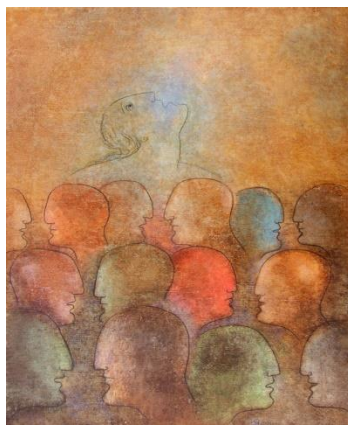
Begin, not with man, but with God.

"Rest in God alone, my soul, for my hope comes from him.."

Psalm 62:5

Never mind if you can't seem to find believers who are clearly "new creations."

Start with yourself. Seek the Lord Jesus. Join Yourself to Him.



Never mind if the churches you "checked out" never seem to function as one body.

Ask the Spirit to guide you to the church where he wants you to be, insignificant as it may appear.

Join your heart to these people, and you will experience the Body of Christ.

And in that fellowship the Lord Jesus will transform YOU into a new creation.



....Then we will no longer be little children, tossed by the waves and blown around by every wind of teaching, by human cunning with cleverness in the techniques of deceit. But speaking the truth in love, let us grow in every way into him who is the head — Christ. From him the whole body, fitted and knit together by every supporting ligament, promotes the growth of the body for building itself up in love by the proper working of each individual part.

Ephesians 4:14-16



Prayer: Lord when we feel critical and disappointed in those who claim you on this earth, help us to stop looking at them and to look at you instead, to truly seek you. Join us to you, so our expectations won't be dashed. Help us to look to you for what we need. Guide us to the place where you want us to be. And help us to open our hearts to that Body, yes to truly join our hearts to them, as we grow together in our love and service to you. Transform us into new creations as we accept them and love them. And instead of being disappointed and critical of them We allow and expect you and only you to transform them into new creations as well. Amen.

Message: Richard E. Bieber 2003

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