

Vestigial Organs?

Ponder: Are you really needed in the body of Christ?

Scripture: “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” (1 Corinthians 12:1 NKJV).

As I was taught the “facts” (!) of evolution, my school teachers explained about vestigial organs. (Vestige: a remnant or leftover.) Certain organs like tonsils and the appendix had been needed in our pre-human days, but we had evolved so that they were now useless. In a few million more years, they would just shrink and disappear.

Oops! Nowadays we know that these much-maligned and commonly-removed organs are not worthless leftovers. Rather, they serve important purposes. God is an extremely talented engineer after all!

Paul likened the church to a “body, joined and knit together by what every joint supplies, according to the effective working by which every part does its share, causes growth of the body for the edifying of itself in love” (Ephesians 4:16). In that complicated sentence, notice that “every member” contributes to the overall wellbeing of the entire body. There are no vestigial organs in the body of Christ!

Some members of a body serve in more obvious ways than others. We can see our fingers working; but when last did you while away an afternoon observing the function of the pituitary gland? Yet, if the pituitary gland fails, the entire body is adversely (and noticeably!) affected.

Some functions in the body of Christ are high-profile; much more goes on behind the scenes. What is visible may receive the most attention, but less-obvious activities are neither inferior nor irrelevant. The church will not grow, develop, or operate as it should unless every member is working!

In biology, vestigial organs are a hoax. They are equally fraudulent in matters of the spirit. Jesus didn't place you within His body just to occupy space. As the song says, “Let us do with our might what our hands find to do.” You are needed! You are important!