

Many Parts, One Body

Recently Gayle Rouse, an Aglow leader in Canada, was asking the Lord to show her how He sees Aglow in this new season. Much to her surprise, He encouraged her to take a look at her own family!

Gayle's family includes 5 married children and 11 grandchildren, 5 of whom are married. Then she has 3 great grandchildren. Altogether, 30 unique individuals make up her family which spans 4 generations!

Just the adults alone are extremely varied in their giftings, callings, and expertise. A couple of them own their own businesses. Then there is a police officer, a university librarian, a health care worker who works in a nursing home, a teacher who lives in Japan, a bus driver, a roofer who is also a musician, a trader in a large international grain company, and more! Some go to the same job in the same place daily. Some travel internationally regularly. Yet, when they all come together, the time isn't centered on what they do, but who they are....family. Family who enjoys being together and who love each other through good times and bad.

At the Leader's Summit in 2015, Graham Cooke told us that *in the work of the Kingdom, we are both the household of God – caring, loving, and supporting each other, and we are a disciplined army called to overcome and to take territory*. Recognized as an end time ministry, Aglow is both spiritually and geographically positioned around the world. It is important that we recognize who we are in the earth.

Here is a familiar portion of scripture from I Corinthians 12:

Just as a body, though one, has many parts, but all its many parts form one body, so it is with Christ. For we were all baptized by one Spirit so as to form one body—whether Jews or Gentiles, slave or free—and we were all given the one Spirit to drink.

Even so the body is not made up of one part, but of many. Now if the foot should say, "Because I am not a hand, I do not belong to the body," it would not for that reason stop being part of the body. And if the ear should say, "Because I am not an eye, I do not belong to the body," it would not for that reason stop being part of the body.

If the whole body were an eye, where would the sense of hearing be? If the whole body were an ear, where would the sense of smell be? But in fact, God has placed the parts in the body, every one of them, just as He wanted them to be.

If they were all one part, where would the body be? As it is, there are many parts, but one body. The eye cannot say to the hand, "I don't need you!" And the head cannot say to the feet, "I don't need you!"

On the contrary, those parts of the body that seem to be weaker are indispensable, and the parts that we think are less honorable we treat with special honor. And the parts that are unpresentable are treated with special modesty, while our presentable parts need no special treatment.

But God has put the body together, giving greater honor to the parts that lacked it, so that there should be no division in the body, but that its parts should have equal concern for each other.

If one part suffers, every part suffers with it; if one part is honored, every part rejoices with it. Now you are the body of Christ, and each one of you is a part of it.

Isn't that a beautiful passage of scripture?

Think of the individuals that make up your own family. Not everyone can be a doctor. Not everyone can be a stay at home Mom. Not everyone can be the new born baby. And each has its most important place in the family. No one is greater. No one is less. Love covers all. Each one has its own special place of importance.

Gayle went on to say that when the family comes together, they rejoice over a recent engagement, or a birthday, even an anniversary. With 30 family members, there will always be many reasons to rejoice and even times to cry together.

God reminded Gail how unique her family is as a third generation is being born. Each one is unique. Each one has their own special plan that God has designed them to fulfill and there is great joy as she watches it unfold before her.

In the same way, each person in an Aglow group will bring areas of strength, as well as areas of weakness and TOGETHER, those in the group will go about the assignments that God has given into their hands to accomplish in their town. Each town that has an Aglow group will find that God has given them their very own look as they release His sound and carry His Presence. The dependency of each group will be upon the Lord as they seek His face for every step they take. They will have times of both family and being His army who walk in relationship in His Kingdom.

Practical Applications

The questions in this section come from the session Graham Cooke taught at the Leader's Summit in 2015 entitled, [Army and Family](#). The transcript can be found on the Aglow website.

While you can write out answers, the best way to know each other after the Spirit is to process through the questions together. Silence is okay. Honesty is encouraged. Fault finding and blame are not allowed. You are on a journey together to bring Heaven to earth in your community. Start and follow the Holy Spirit.

1. Your Aglow group will have primary objects. As a **family**, you will begin to relate to each other through your identity that God designed you to bring forth in the earth. How have you begun to relate to each other through how you are known in Heaven? Choose 3 people in the group and jot down thoughts related to their identity, not their behavior. Share if possible. If your group hasn't written individual identity statements that should be done soon. (See handout in the *GameChanger* manual or find as a [downloadable on aglow.org](#).)
2. As a **family** your group should be a safe place where new people can come to discover who they are in Christ and learn to relate to others according to how they are known by Christ. Do you feel your group provides a safe place for relationship building and Christian growth? If yes, explain. If no, share what you think could change. Be truthful and kind as you share, not fault finding or blaming others.
3. As the **army of God** in your community, you must learn to be focused on taking and keeping the territory God has given. How do you think your team follows through with the assignments God has given to you to do? If good, how? If not so good, why not?
4. Do you feel that those who have the leadership responsibility inspire, encourage, and bring the gifts out of those who attend? If yes, how. If no, what do you suggest as possible changes? Be kind.

5. Each group needs evaluation. Is what your group does advance the work of the Kingdom or is the status quo simply being maintained?
6. Looking around the room to assess the strengths and weakness in the group, place people under the following headings:
 - » Builder
 - » Blessor
 - » Talker
 - » Thinker
7. Looking back up at the columns in question 6,
 - » Place a check mark by each person who you feel safe around.
 - » Circle those who you need to get to know more.
 - » Draw a heart by those who you feel know and relate to you as you are known in Heaven.
 - » Place an “E” by those you see as an evangelist.
8. As Christians, we will have times when we have different viewpoints on a subject; however, our love will remain the same for each other. Look back up at the list in question 6. As you look at each name, representing a fellow family member in your group, are there any that you should release because of possible judgements or even hurts? Our love must be non-negotiable.