

God's Ministry

A Willingness to Serve

Ministry, n.

[L. ministerium.] The office, duties or functions of a subordinate agent of any kind.

1. Agency; service; aid; interposition; instrumentality.

— *Noah Webster (1828)*

Minister

διακονος (*diakonos*)

“one who executes the commands of another, . . .”

— *James Strong*

Lord, n

1. A master; a person possessing supreme power and authority; a ruler; a governor.

— *Noah Webster (1828)*

Why did the Jews fail as a body?
Why has Christianity failed as a body?
Why do we have so many denominations?

Genesis 1:1-31

Symbiosis

συν (*sun*) + βιωσις (*biosis*)

Lit. *living together*

“a cooperative relationship” — *Merriam Webster Online*

Photo courtesy of Steve G. Ka-ur



The Egyptian plover bird

Photo courtesy of Warren Photographic



The Egyptian plover bird & the crocodile

Photo courtesy of James A. Dawson



The cleaner shrimp & the moray eel

Photo courtesy of Victor Komiyaenko



The monarch butterfly caterpillar

Photo courtesy of <http://www.wheretogomagazine.com/>



The monarch butterfly & the flowers of the field

Question:

What one word best describes a useful body?

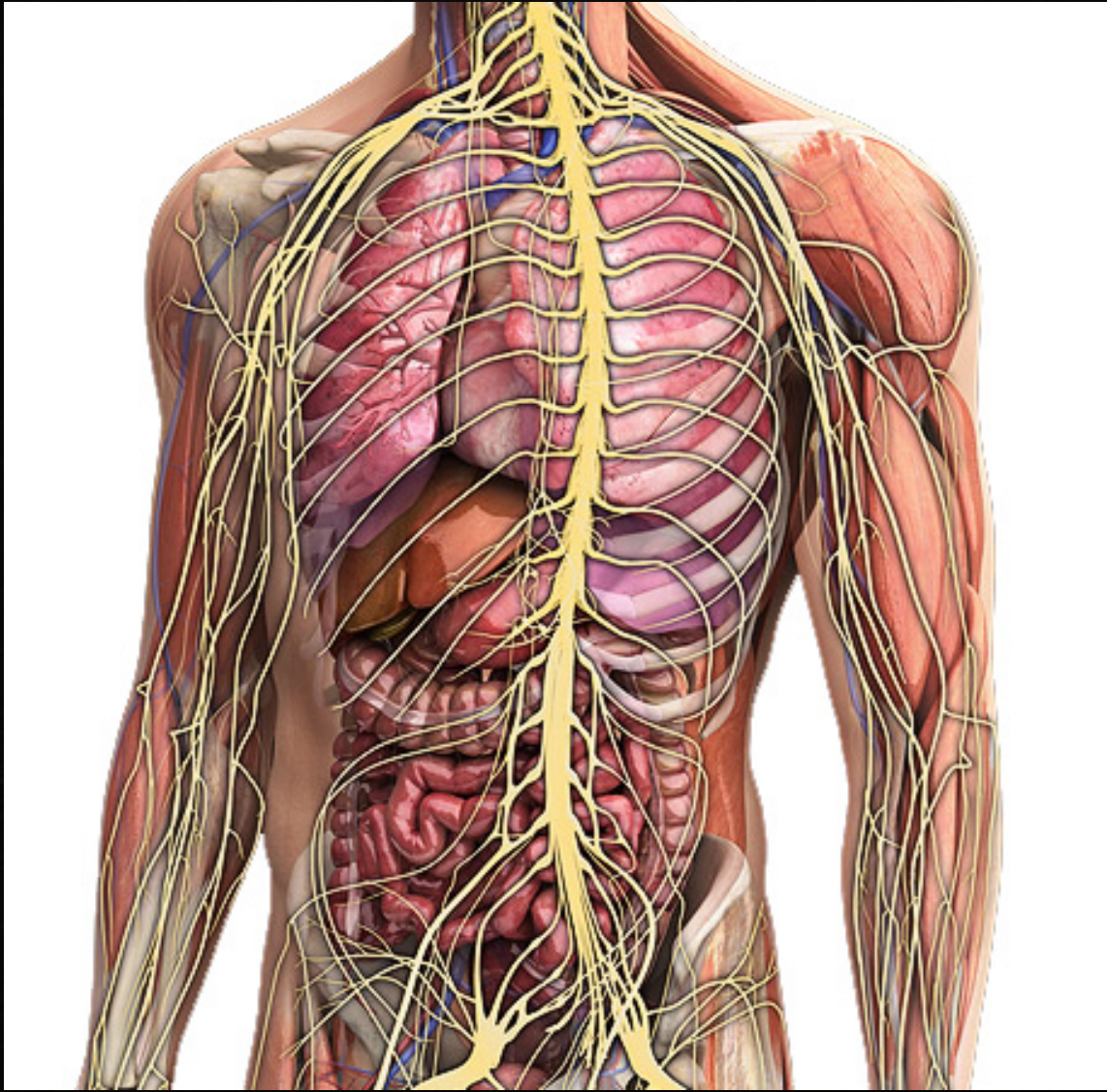
Answer:

Organization

Organization, n.

1. The act or process of forming organs or instruments of action.
2. The act of forming or arranging the parts of a compound or complex body in a suitable manner for use or service
— *Noah Webster (1828)*

Photo courtesy of <http://www.human-anatomy-models.com/>



The Nervous System

It is not always the best tool for the job that gets used, but the tool which is closest at hand.

Philippians 2:4-8

“Look not every man on his own things, but every man also on the things of others. Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus: who, being in the form of God, thought it not robbery to be equal with God: but made himself of no reputation, and took upon him the form of a servant, and was made in the likeness of men: and being found in fashion as a man, he humbled himself, and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross.”

Ephesians 4:8-16

“Wherefore he saith, When he ascended up on high, he led captivity captive, and gave gifts unto men. . . . And he gave some, apostles; and some, prophets; and some, evangelists; and some, pastors and teachers; for the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ: till we all come in the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, unto a perfect man, unto the measure of the stature of the fulness of Christ:

Ephesians 4:8-16

“That we henceforth be no more children, tossed to and fro, and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the sleight of men, and cunning craftiness, whereby they lie in wait to deceive; but speaking the truth in love, may grow up into him in all things, which is the head, even Christ: from whom the whole body fitly joined together and compacted by that which every joint supplieth, according to the effectual working in the measure of every part, maketh increase of the body unto the edifying of itself in love.”

1 Corinthians 12:6-7, 12, 14, 20, 25

“And there are diversities of operations, but it is the same God which worketh all in all. But the manifestation of the Spirit is given to every man to profit withal.”

“For as the body is one, and hath many members, and all the members of that one body, being many, are one body: so also is Christ.”

“For the body is not one member, but many.”

“But now are they many members, yet but one body.

“That there should be no schism in the body; but that the members should have the same care one for another.”

1 Peter 5:5

“Likewise, ye younger, submit yourselves unto the elder. Yea, all of you be subject one to another, and be clothed with humility: for God resisteth the proud, and giveth grace to the humble.”

Colossians 1:16-17

“For by him were all things created, that are in heaven, and that are in earth, visible and invisible, whether they be thrones, or dominions, or principalities, or powers: all things were created by him, and for him: and he is before all things, and by him all things consist.”

Matthew 20:25-28

“But Jesus called them unto him, and said, Ye know that the princes of the Gentiles exercise dominion over them, and they that are great exercise authority upon them. But it shall not be so among you: but whosoever will be great among you, let him be your **minister**; and whosoever will be chief among you, let him be your **servant: even as the Son of man came not to be ministered unto, but to minister, and to give his life a ransom for many.**”

Minister

διακονος (*diakonos*)

“one who executes the commands of another, . . .”

— *James Strong*

Servant

δουλος (*doulos*)

“one who gives himself up to another’s will . . . devoted to another to the disregard of one’s own interests. . . .”

— *James Strong*

Colossians 1:18

“And he [Christ Jesus] is the head of the body, the church: who is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead; that in all things he might have the preeminence.”

1 Peter 2:21

“For even hereunto were ye called: because Christ also **suffered** for us, **leaving us an example, that ye should follow his steps.**”

Suffered

v. πασχω (*pascho*) n. παθος (*pathos*)

*To experience something which excites a deep feeling of
sorrow in others*

Pity, n.

[. . . L. *patior*, to suffer.]

1. The feeling or suffering of one person, excited by the distresses of another; sympathy with the grief or misery of another; compassion or fellow-suffering.

— *Noah Webster (1828)*

Jesus suffered (*pathos*) for us, leaving us an example that we should follow. His example of suffering should echo in our souls, and fill us with a corresponding desire to seek and to save the lost.

Acts 20:35

“I have shewed you all things, how that so labouring ye ought to support the weak, and to remember the words of the Lord Jesus, how he said, **It is more blessed to give than to receive.**”

The End