



THE BODY

Ephesians 4:11-16

Ephesians 1:15-23

1 Corinthians 12:12-27

Hear and Do Or Perish

• James 1:22; 2:14-26

• Luke 13:1-3

OUR Goals for 2022

Five D's of Discipleship; Catechism; Memory Work

Are You a WE or a ME?

- A Christian **must** be an active, serving **member** of a **local** church. One really cannot call themselves a Christian without this.
- If someone disagrees with this premise then most of the New Testament is meaningless because it is written to churches and not individuals.
- Beginning in the 1960's western culture was moving from being community minded (corporate) to individualism. Serving the community was turning to serving self. SELF became more important than community.
- In the 70s, 80s, and 90s this change "**seeped**" into the Church.
- Church members became more and more individualistic in doing what they wanted, when they wanted, how they wanted, etc.
- Individualism seeped also into the doctrine of the church. More and more "Christians" ignored sound doctrine and no longer was the Church of ONE MIND. Now, there is no unity when it comes to doctrine and the Church has accepted it now as normal!!!!!! This is why we hear statements like:
 - ★ We must agree on the essentials but we can disagree on the non-essentials.
 - ★ Let's just agree to disagree.
 - ★ People have always disagreed with the interpretation of the Scriptures.
 - ★ Christ is important not doctrine.
- The **doctrine** of the Church being the Body of Christ faded and has become only **words**. Church membership, we were told, is not necessary.
- The corrupted understanding of the doctrine of the Church has grossly adversely corrupted the doctrines of God, Christ, the Holy Spirit, Grace, Salvation, Sin, etc. (Galatians 5:9)

- God demolishes these thoughts by passages such as 1 Corinthians 12; Ephesians 1, 2, 5; Romans 12-15; 1 Peter 4 and the rest of the New Testament. As a Church, the Body of Christ, we, too, have the responsibility and obligation to “**demolish**” any argument or thought that sets itself against the Word of God. (2 Corinthians 10:4-6)
- We are NOT to be CONFORMED to culture (the world), but be TRANSFORMED by the RENEWING of our MINDS – doing the WILL of GOD. (Romans 12:1-2; 1 Peter 4:1-2; 1 John 2:17; Matthew 7:21; 12:50; 2 Corinthians 5:15; Ephesians 5:17; Hebrews 10:36)
- **ONLY the CHURCH GOES to HEAVEN. ONLY THE “WE’s” GO to HEAVEN!**
 - The “WE’s” live on every word that comes from mouth of their God. (Luke 4:4)
 - The “WE’s” do the will of their Father in heaven. (Matthew 7:21; 12:5)
 - The “WE’s” understand that the Church was purchased by the blood of God. (Acts 20:28)
 - The “WE’s” know that they **belong** to each and every other member of the Church. (Romans 12:4-5)
 - The “WE’s” understand that their growth as a disciple is dependent on the faithfulness of their brothers and sisters in the Church. (Ephesians 4:16)
 - The “WE’s” understand that the growth of their brothers and sisters is dependent on **their** (we’s) faithfulness and growth. (Ephesians 4:16)
 - The “WE’s” understand they have been given grace in the form of gifts that they are **obligated** to use in ministering to their brothers and sisters in the Church. (Ephesians 4:7; 1 Peter 4:10-11; 1 Cor 12:7)
 - The “WE’s” understand that as a Body they do everything together with the rest of the Body.
 - They worship TOGETHER.
 - They study TOGETHER.
 - They pray TOGETHER.
 - They fellowship TOGETHER.
 - They work TOGETHER.
 - They rejoice and suffer TOGETHER.

**ARE YOU AN ACTIVE SERVING MEMBER OF THE BODY OF CHRIST?
WHAT IS YOUR PART IN THE GROWTH OF THE BODY OF CHRIST?**

But some will still say, “Church membership is not important and it is optional.”

Others will say, “I can be saved and going to heaven without being an active, serving member of a local church.”

If you believe this then you are calling God a liar!

- (1 Corinthians 12:21) One **cannot** say, "I have no **need**" for the Body."

Four Biblical Truths about the Church:

- ① The Church is **UNIVERSAL**. (Matthew 16:18; Revelation 1:11; 5:9)
- ② The Church is **LOCAL**. (Matt 18:17; Romans, 1 & 2 Corinthians, Galatians, Ephesians, Philippians, Colossians; Revelation 2 & 3)
- ③ The Church is **CORPORATE**. (Rom 12:4-5; 1 Cor 12; Eph 5:32-33; Rev 2 & 3)
- ④ There is a **VISIBLE** and an **INVISIBLE** Church. (See Romans 9:6)
 - The **VISIBLE** church are all who "say" they believe in Christ but are not necessarily known by Christ. (Matthew 7:21-23, 24-29; 12:50; John 2:23-25; 8:31; 1 John 1:6-7, 8, 10; 2:3-4, 6, 9; 17; 4:20; Titus 1:16; James 1:22; 2:20-26)
 - The **INVISIBLE** church are all of God's elect who have been sealed with the Holy Spirit and are actually following Christ doing the will of the Father. (John 10:27-29; Luke 9:23; Matthew 7:24-29; 12:50; 21:29-31; Luke 11:28; 1 John 2:3-4)

ONE HEAD and ONE Body (1 Corinthians 12:12-14)

- THE CHURCH IS **THE BODY OF CHRIST!** (v. 27; Eph 5:30-32)
- The Church is **ONE BODY** with **MANY members**. The members are Christians.
- The Church is **ONE BODY** with MUCH DIVERSITY. (1 Corinthians 12:4-5) but the SAME Spirit and SAME Lord. This diversity is given by God.
- **NOTE:** The diversity is in GIFTS (talents, abilities) and **NOT** beliefs. (See Ephesians 4:4-6)
 - ★ The Church, the Body, is to speak the same thing (one mouth), have no divisions, be perfectly joined together in the same mind (one mind, like-minded) and in the same understand. (1 Cor 1:10; Rom 15:5-6)
- The **HEAD** ("control center") of the Church is **CHRIST**. (See Ephesians 1:22-23; 4:15; 5:23; Colossians 1:15-18; 2:19)
- **NOTE:** The **DIVERSITY** is in the **BODY** – **NOT** the **HEAD!**
- The members of the body get their direction from their Head.
 - ★ The Body (members) move to the **will** of **THE HEAD** not their own wills. The Church, the Body, is to have **one will** – Christ's!
- **We are the Body of Christ in the World.** The Church is Christ!
 - ➔ **MEDITATE:** Luke 14:26-27.
 - ➔ Is Christ most important in your life?
 - ➔ Is Christ's Body most important in your life?
- The members belong to Christ and each others. (Self-denial). (Romans 12:5-6)

God's Goals for HIS Church (Ephesians 4:12-15)

- A goal is something not yet realized but pursued. (Philippians 3:12-14)

- God gifts His Church with pastor/teachers for the purpose of:
 - ① (v. 12) The equipping of the saints for the WORK of ministry. ALL Christians are WORKERS in the ministry of the Church.
 - ② (v. 13) The edifying of the body of Christ. The Body **needs** building up. The Body is to **pursue** those things that will edify it. (Romans 14:19; 15:2; 14:3-5, 12, **26**, Ephesians 4:12, 16, 29; 1 Thess 5:11)
 - **How are you edifying the Body?**
- **The STANDARD for the Body:**
 - ① Unity in **the** faith of the Son of God.
 - ② The **knowledge** of the Son of God. We are commanded to grow in our knowledge. (2 Peter 3:17-18)
 - ★ The Holy Spirit uses the Greek word “ἐπίγνωσις” – this is more than just “head” knowledge. This is INTIMATE KNOWLEDGE or RELATIONAL KNOWLEDGE. This knowledge is the foundation of an INTIMATE RELATIONSHIP with Christ.
 - ★ This was the kind of knowledge that Paul desired in Philippians 3:8, 10.
 - ★ This is our FIRST GOAL for 2022 - to have a deeper, more intimate, real relationship with God. **Do you desire a deeper relationship with God?**
 - ★ This knowledge comes only by diligent study of God’s Word, His revelation of Himself.
 - ③ A **PERFECT MAN** - this is NOT an individual man but THE CHURCH.
 - ★ A fully grown mature man – Christ as our example.
 - ④ The measure (standard) of the stature of the **FULLNESS** of Christ.
 - ★ This is accomplished as one, in love, obeys. To those God and Christ come to make their homes with them and to manifest themselves. (See John 14:21, 23; and Ephesians 3:17)
 - ★ We are to walk **just as** He walked; love **just as** He loved us; forgive **just as** He forgave us; received one another **just as** He received us. (1 John 2:6; John 13:34-35; Colossians 3:13; Romans 15:7)
 - ⑤ Not to be “**tossed to and fro**” by the teachings, craftiness, and trickery of men. (Matthew 24:11, 24; 2 Timothy 3:13)
 - ⑥ To **GROW UP** in **all** thing into Him - our Head.

The Promise (Ephesians 4:16)

- This is a promise to the CHURCH - not individuals.
- This promise is good ONLY when EVERY PART is doing their part, using the grace and gifts God has given them to minister to each other in the Body.
- There is NO PROMISE for the Church where everyone is not doing their part.
- ARE YOU DOING YOUR PART SO THAT THE CHURCH CAN GROW?
- Or are you determined to be a ME and not a WE?