

ONE HEAD ONE BODY MANY MEMBERS

1 Corinthians 12:1-27

Ephesians 4:1-16; Ephesians 5:22-33



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Growing as Disciples in 2024

• D for DETERMINATION.

- ▶ A disciple has a PLAN to use God's means for growth.
 - He uses the WORD (reading plan, study, memorization, meditation)
 - He has a PRAYER plan. He prays for those things God commands. He learns to pray God's will not his.
 - He gathers TOGETHER regularly with fellow disciples in order to grow and help others to grow.

God's Eternal Purpose

- ★ EVERY person who receives God's saving grace is gifted to be part of a local body of believers.
- ★ GOD ADDS each and every one of His special people to a LOCAL Body where he can grow and mature.
- ★ GOD ADDS each and everyone of His special people into a LOCAL Body to grow and mature the Body.
- ★ To ignore God's teachings in the New Testament about His Church is to REBEL against God's ways and that is what unbelievers do.

Review of God's Definition of Church

- ① Entrance in the Church beginning at the **SUPERNATURAL WORK** of God when God transform a person into a new creation, one of His special people who now live their lives to please Him in obeying Him. This is what the Bible calls being "born-again." (John 3:1-8; 1 John 3:1-10)
- ② A Church Model - the local Church of Thessalonica. Eight evidences that they truly were a church.
- ③ ~~What~~ Who Is the Church? Universal, Local, Corporate, Visible, Invisible, Home.
 - The emphasis in the NT is abundantly on the LOCAL church.
 - ★ The Holy Spirit moved Paul to write to the church at Corinth to instruct them that they were the Body of Christ, "Now you are the body of Christ . . ." (1 Corinthians 12:27)

ONE BODY - the LOCAL CHURCH

- Why is this **necessary** to understand.
- **Being an active serving member of a LOCAL church is not an option - it is a necessity!** (1 Corinthians 12:21-27) It is God's design for the growth of each of His children and the growth of His churches. THIS IS WHAT GOD DOES! MEDITATE ON THIS. GOD ALWAYS DOES WHAT HE PURPOSES.



ROMANS 8:28-30

- A "Christian" **cannot** say, "I don't **need** other Christians." OR "Other Christians do not **need** me."
- Every part of the body is **NECESSARY**. Every part is necessary **because** God says they are **necessary** and **adds** each part.. (1 Cor 12:21-22)
- In Romans 12:4-5, God says that we **belong** to one another. "Belonging" means that we need each other or more literally, "each one members of one another." Christians **intimately belong** to each other. There is **no superficial relationships** in the "Body of Christ".
- (1 Cor 12:21) "The eye (one member) **cannot** say to the hand (another member), I have no need for you."
 - ★ The eye **needs** the hand because God has designed it that way.
 - ★ The **need** is **constant**.
- A body part cut off from the rest of the body **will** die quickly.
- (1 Corinthians 12:23-24) Our culture has the tendency of giving honor to the OBVIOUS members and NOT the "**seemingly**" weaker members. Every member is **important**.
 - There **are** to be NO DIVISIONS in the Body. (1 Corinthians 1:10)
 - The care for each part of the Body is to be the **same** without **partiality**.
 - When one part of the Body suffers – **all** parts suffer **with** it.
 - When one part of the Body is rejoicing - **all** parts rejoice **with** it.
 - IF you do not have an intimate relationship with the members of the Body you cannot suffer with them and rejoice with them.
- (Ephesians 2:10; 1 Peter 4:10-11; Romans 12:4-5) Each part (member) of the Body has been given specific function to perform.
 - (Matthew 20:27-28) Each member has an **obligation** to **serve** the parts of the Body to the fullest.
- ★ The desire of each part is for the WHOLE BODY to grow, to mature, to be more holy, and to be more like Christ. When the Body is growing each individual part is growing! (Ephesians 4:15-16)

ONE HEAD and ONE BODY (1 Corinthians 12:1-27)

- The Church (local) **is** the Body of Christ.
- **The local church is a WORK OF GOD.** MEDITATE! (Matthew 16:18)
- The Body consists of **ONE HEAD** and MANY MEMBERS.
- Without the HEAD the Body would die.
- ★ (1 Corinthians 6:19-20) When we are “born-again” we understand that our bodies and spirits **BELONG** to GOD. GOD owns our lives. He bought us with the blood of His own Son - His own blood (Acts 20:28).
- ★ We **belong** to God and to each other - **NOT ourselves!** (Rom 12:4-5; Psalm 100:3; 1 Peter 2:5, 9; Titus 2:14; 1 Cor 3:16; 2 Cor 6:16; Eph 2:21-22)
- **Since the CHURCH is the Body of Christ and that the Church belongs to GOD, GOD and GOD alone adds to His Body and puts each member where He wants them.** (Psalm 115:3; 135:6) **EVERY ONE OF HIS PEOPLE.**
- God places each member into the Body of Christ to fulfill **HIS purpose** – NOT the pastor’s and NOT the church’s.
- To be discontented with my position in the Body of Christ is to be discontented with God.
 - Romans 9:20-21; Job 33:13; 40:2; Isaiah 29:16; 45:9-11.
- God distributes His gifts as **HE wills** – **NOT** as church members want or desire.
- God has foreordained work for each of us to do. God gifts us to fulfill the works He foreordained us to do. (Ephesians 2:10; Titus 2:14) **WHATEVER GOD FOREORDAINS HAPPENS!**
- One Head - Christ - Christ is the “head” over all. (Eph 1:22; 4:15-16; 2:10)
 - “Head” control center for the WHOLE BODY.
 - The Body (all members of the Body) get their direction from the Head.
 - The Body moves **together** at/by the will of the Head - not members’ own wills.
- One Body with many members. (Romans 12:4-5)
- One Body with much diversity. (1 Corinthians 12:4-7)
 - Necessity of diversity.
 - Diversity in GIFTS, MINISTERIES, **BUT not in BELIEFS** (doctrine/ “the faith”) (Ephesians 4:5; Jude 3)
 - GOD, not the members, decides the gifts. (1 Cor 12:4-6)
 - Diversity in the Body **but not the Head.**
- One Body with much diversity **yet perfect unity???!!**
- Each member is gifted (every one) **NOT FOR HIMSELF** but for “the profit of the WHOLE”. (1 Corinthians 12:7)

A Body by Definition

- A body is mysteriously formed by God. (Psalm 139:13-17; Jeremiah 1:5)
- **GOD adds** to the Body.
 - To complete the individual
 - To complete the Body

- The Body does everything together - my definition - any reasonable person's definition! If it is NOT your definition what does the illustration of the Church being ONE BODY mean to you? JUST WORDS????
- Bob's illustration of getting a cup of coffee.

We Are Who We Are by the WILL of God

- (1 Cor 15:10) Individually. God's grace makes us what we are. MEDITATE on this! And God's grace works in us!
- (1 Cor 12:18) A church. God adds to the Church for His purposes and plan for the Church.

Absolute Dependence

- It is God who gives "life, breath and every thing" to everyone. (Acts 17:25)
- Each person is completely dependent on GOD!
- The Church is completely dependent on God - consider what we learned in Revelation 3:14-22.

A Body Grows Together (Ephesians 4:12-16)

- GROWTH is mysterious.
- When we are born physically we are born with all our members. From the moment of BIRTH the whole body grows together.
- The same is true for a biblical spirit-filled Church. It is by GOD's DESIGN that Churches grow.
- God's goal (predetermination) is that each and every person He saves grows more and more into the image of His Son. (Romans 8:29; **2 Cor 3:18**)
- ★ **MEDITATE: GOD WORKS IN INDIVIDUALS AND THE BODY SO THAT HIS PURPOSE WILL BE FULFILLED.**
- ★ **EVERY DISCIPLE WILL CONTINUALLY MATURE INTO THE IMAGE OF CHRIST BECAUSE GOD WORKS IN THEM!**
- His goal for a church is that it continually matures into a "perfect/mature man, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ". (Ephesians 4:11-16)
 - ★ **As each member matures the Body matures.**
 - ★ **As the Body matures each member matures.**

GOD PUTS HIS SPECIAL PEOPLE INTO BODIES (Ephesians 4:11-16)

- The members of a BODY are designed to function in the world together.
- A CHURCH, the Body, is designed by God to grow and mature in the world fulfilling God's purpose.
- BY DESIGN, one cannot call themselves a Christian without actively serving in a local church.