

THE CHURCH

THE BODY OF CHRIST

Introduction:

1. The New Testament uses many terms and concepts to describe the church of Christ.
2. As members of the church, it is important for us to know what the church is – and what the Lord expects it to be.
3. Thus, as we study these divine descriptions of the church, we will learn how we are to conduct ourselves individually and as a congregation of God’s people.
4. The role of the church in God’s plan of redemption...
 - a. Eternal purpose
 - b. Connected to the crucifixion
 - c. Result of the resurrection
 - d. Established on Pentecost
5. Descriptive Designations of the Church:
 - a. “The Called Out”
 - b. The Body of Christ

- I. One Body – One Head (Colossians 1:18)
- A. One Lord
 1. Jesus is to have the preeminence because He is preeminent (vs. 15-17).
 2. All honor, glory, and praise is to God – not man.
 - a. Not the Pope
 - b. Not the priest
 - c. Not the human “founder” – Luther, Calvin, Joseph Smith, etc.
 - B. One Authority
 1. As the head governs the body, so Jesus rules over the church.
 2. He is the only authority for the church – revealed in His Gospel (Heb. 1:1; John 8:32; 17:17).
 - a. Not tradition or opinion
 - b. Not creed books or “revelations”
 - c. Not feelings
 - C. One Guide
 1. As the head guides the body, so Jesus directs the church.
 2. In Salvation
 - a. Hear, Believe, Repent, Confess Faith, Be Baptized
 - b. Rev. 2:10
 - c. Repentance, Confession, Prayer
 3. In Worship – *Sing, Preach, Pray, Give, Lord’s Supper*
 4. In Work – *Benevolence, Edification, Evangelism*
 - D. One Savior
 1. Jesus is the Savior of the body, the church (Eph. 5:23).
 2. There is no other Savior; there are no other saved.

- II. One Head – One Body (Ephesians 1:22-23)
- A. The church is the body of Christ.
 - B. There is only one body (Eph. 4:4-6; 1 Cor. 12:20).
 - C. Therefore, there is only one church.
 - D. The one, true church can be identified by its submission to the Head.

Biblical Description of the Church

Lesson Six

1 Corinthians 12

- III. One Body – Equality and Unity (1 Corinthians 12)
 - A. Concern for the Body (Mark 16:1-2)
 - B. The relationship between the Body and the Christ (Acts 8:3; 9:1, 4)
 - C. Equality in the Body (1 Cor. 12:12-20)
 - 1. Every part is necessary.
 - 2. No one part can do the work of all parts.
 - D. Responsibility to the Body (1 Cor. 12:21-27; Eph. 4:11-16)
 - 1. Note – “every joint supplies”
 - 2. Each member is responsible for whatever he can do.
 - 3. Ability + Opportunity = Responsibility
 - E. Unity of the Body (Eph. 4:1-6)