

The Edification of the Body

Introduction

- 1. All Christians are part of the body of Christ. As a result we are members of one another and have certain responsibilities toward the body and one another.**
- 2. Our relationship with one another is very important in God's eyes.**
- 3. This morning we will learn about our relationship with other Christians and just how vital this relationship really is.**
 - A. The apostle Paul wrote about the importance of this.**

We Are Members of One Another

1. The Body

A. There is one body

1 Corinthians 12:12

Ephesians 4:4 **There is one body** and one Spirit, just as you were called in one hope of your calling;

Ephesians 2:16 and that He might reconcile them both to God **in one body** through the cross, thereby putting to death the enmity.

B. We learn that the one body is Christ's body.

Ephesians 4:12 for the equipping of the saints for the work of ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ,

Ephesians 1:22-23 And He put all things under His feet, and gave Him to be head over all things to the church, **which is His body**, the fullness of Him who fills all in all.

Ephesians 5:23 For the husband is head of the wife, as also Christ is head of the church; and **He is the Savior of the body**.

Colossians 1:24 I now rejoice in my sufferings for you, and fill up in my flesh what is lacking in the afflictions of Christ, **for the sake of His body**, which is the church,

C. The body is the church.

Colossians 1:24 I now rejoice in my sufferings for you, and fill up in my flesh what is lacking in the afflictions of Christ, for the sake of **His body, which is the church,**

Colossians 1:18 And He is the **head of the body, the church,** who is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, that in all things He may have the preeminence.

Ephesians 1:22-23 And He put all things under His feet, and gave Him to be head over all things **to the church, which is His body,** the fullness of Him who fills all in all.

D. Baptism is what puts one into the one body.

1 Corinthians 12:13

Galatians 3:27 For as many of you as were baptized into Christ have **put on Christ.**

Romans 6:3 Or do you not know that as many of us as were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into His death?

2. Many Members.

A. Our physical body has many members

1 Corinthians 12:12-20

Romans 12:4 For as we have **many members in one body**, but all the members do not have the same function,

- 1) Our head, hands, ears, eyes, feet, etc.
- 2) Our heart, lungs, liver, kidneys, etc.

B. In the same way, Christ's body has many members.

1 Corinthians 12:12, 27

Romans 12:5 so we, **being many, are one body in Christ**, and individually members of one another.

- 1) Each individual Christian is a member of the body.
 - a. Christ is the head.

Ephesians 1:22-23 And He put all things under His feet, and gave Him to be **head over all things to the church**, which is His body.....

Ephesians 4:15 but, speaking the truth in love, may grow up in all things into Him who is **the head — Christ —**

Ephesians 5:23 For the husband is head of the wife, as also **Christ is head of the church.....**

Colossians 1:18 And He is the **head of the body, the church.....**

3. Many members with different functions.

A. Just as our physical body has many members with different functions, so does the body of Christ.

1 Corinthians 12:27-30

Ephesians 4:16

Romans 12:4 For as we have many members in one body, but all the members do not have the same function,

B. Every member has a function.

1 Corinthians 12:14-25

- 1) From the youngest to the oldest.
- 2) From the least educated to the most educated.
- 3) From the least talented to the most talented.
- 4) Every single member has a function!

- 4. Every member needs to perform their function for the purpose of:**
- A. Building up the body of Christ**
Ephesians 4:12, 16
 - B. Making the body of Christ complete or whole.**
 - 1) Every part is necessary to make up the body.**
1 Corinthians 12:14-24
 - 2) We are striving for the mature man and the fullness of Christ.**
Ephesians 4:13
 - 3) The body is made whole by what every member supplies.**
Ephesians 4:16
 - C. Unity in the body of Christ.**
1 Corinthians 12:25
Ephesians 4:3, 13

Romans 12:16 Be of the **same mind toward one another**. Do not set your mind on high things, but associate with the humble. Do not be wise in your own opinion.

- D. Benefitting all the members.**
1 Corinthians 12:25-26

Romans 12:15 Rejoice with those who rejoice, and weep with those who weep.

Conclusion

- 1. The Bible certainly teaches these very important facts.**
 - A. The body is the church (the body of Christ is the church of Christ).**
 - B. One gets into the one body through baptism.**
 - C. Only those in the body, the church, will be saved because Jesus is the savior of the body.**
 - 1) Those outside the body of Christ, His church, will not be saved because He is the savior of the body.**
 - D. Every member in the body of Christ is valuable and needed.**
 - 1) We all have something that we can do and we must use the talents that we have been blessed with for His purpose.**
 - E. A unified body of Christ is a body of Christians that are able to do all things for the continual edification of the church.**

Invitation

Place

Date

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Richard Thetford, January 2013 – Reworked February 2021