

# The Church as the Body of Christ

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This is the last series of the church as... of Christ. Because of baptism, I only have a short time, so I have prepared a very short sermon for this. This is mainly a word of encouragement for those who are getting baptised today.

## 1 Corinthians 12:12-15

<sup>12</sup> Just as a body, though one, has many parts, but all its many parts form one body, so it is with Christ. <sup>13</sup> For we were all baptized by one Spirit so as to form one body—whether Jews or Gentiles, slave or free—and we were all given the one Spirit to drink. <sup>14</sup> Even so the body is not made up of one part but of many.

### 1. One Body v12

<sup>12</sup> Just as a body, though one, has many parts, but all its many parts form one body, so it is with Christ.

What the Bible says here is when we look at a body, there are various parts of body but together they form a whole body. And so it is with the body of Christ, or the church.

We are all individual people before we became Christians, but when we became Christians we become part of Jesus Christ's body, the church. In Christ you are no longer outside of the church but you are part of the church. We are no longer a people who are outside the blessing and love of God but within His blessing and His love, no longer lost but we belong to Christ. Yes, we are individual yet together we are one.

The reason the believer of Jesus is called a body is because, the Lord did not just come to build up individuals. He said He would build His church, His body, His community, and that Jesus would be our King. So, we are not here to pursue our own agendas which only exist temporary but we are here to fulfil the agenda of the Kingdom of God, which is eternal.

### 2. One Race v13

<sup>13</sup> For we were all baptized by one Spirit so as to form one body—whether Jews or Gentiles, slave or free—and we were all given the one Spirit to drink.

We are baptised into the Spirit of God, so it is not our skin colour or ethnicity that determines who we are because we are all in the Spirit of Christ. Whether we are Westerners, Chinese, Japanese, Korean, South African, or American etc. it doesn't matter. Whether we have high or low status in the society, whether we are rich or poor doesn't matter, because it is not the nationality, not the status or our wealth that

determines whether we are saved or not. It is not the nationality, social status or wealth that determines we are better than others or not for in God's eyes it is whether we have the Holy Spirit that we are saved or not, whether we are part of Christ, in Christ.

Just think of the image of a man standing in a bright sun light, so bright that all we can see is light. It doesn't matter what colour of skin that person is because we can't tell the difference. To be in Christ doesn't mean we are to lose our individuality or who we are, but when we are in Christ that doesn't matter because we have an identity that is greater, an identity that is more honourable as through the Holy Spirit we are in Christ.

### **3. One Honour v15-16, v21-26**

#### **1 Corinthians 12:15-16**

<sup>15</sup> Now if the foot should say, "Because I am not a hand, I do not belong to the body," it would not for that reason stop being part of the body. <sup>16</sup> And if the ear should say, "Because I am not an eye, I do not belong to the body," it would not for that reason stop being part of the body.

#### **1 Corinthians 12:21-26**

<sup>21</sup> The eye cannot say to the hand, "I don't need you!" And the head cannot say to the feet, "I don't need you!" <sup>22</sup> On the contrary, those parts of the body that seem to be weaker are indispensable, <sup>23</sup> and the parts that we think are less honorable we treat with special honor. And the parts that are unpresentable are treated with special modesty, <sup>24</sup> while our presentable parts need no special treatment. But God has put the body together, giving greater honor to the parts that lacked it, <sup>25</sup> so that there should be no division in the body, but that its parts should have equal concern for each other. <sup>26</sup> If one part suffers, every part suffers with it; if one part is honored, every part rejoices with it.

Those who are independent can't say I don't need to be with other Christians, so they don't connect with the body, the church. You may feel you are not as gifted as others or you might feel that you are not recognised in the body of Christ, the church. That is not reason to stop coming to church. You are an important part of the church, because without you, the church is not complete. Just like in verse 21 says, just because you don't have the gift that others have, you are not to feel you are not good enough.

Every one of you has a part to play. Just think if a body is without ears or a mouth or hands, then this body is incomplete. If someone just want to live his Christian life by themselves, then they are incomplete. Imagine a hand crawling by itself, or eyes jumping around, it would be like a horror movie. So, when you become a Christian, you need to also be part of the body.

V23 And the parts that we think are less honorable we treat with special honor. And the parts that are unpresentable are treated with special modesty,

Those who are weaker in the church, we are to protect them, maybe like those who are hurt, those who are weak emotionally or physically, or those who are children.

V24 While our presentable parts need no special treatment. But God has put the body together, giving greater honor to the parts that lacked it,

God has given special honour to those that lack honour. So, we too are to honour those who are weak, those who may not be able to serve in the church because of their difficulties or problems in life. What I am saying is we should not determine someone's value by how active or prominent in the church that person is because each person has value.

Let me give you the example of an airplane that was saved by a child. The plane lost most of its electricity because lightning hit the plane. It was going to crash. To fix this problem it needed to be done from outside of the plane, which was not possible. Another way is through a small compartment inside the plane to reconnect the wire but was too small to go in by any adult. They made an announcement and a little girl volunteered to connect the wire and saved everyone.

They are special in their own. All should have same honoured as others.

V25 So that there should be no division in the body, but that its parts should have equal concern for each other.

But there should not be any division or feeling of unfairness because of that.

V26 If one part suffers, every part suffers with it; if one part is honored, every part rejoices with it.

That is one honour. When someone in the church is going through hard time, we are all part of that. We should be able to feel the pain of the person. We are to support them through that time as we are going through ourselves.

If someone is going through a rejoicing time or achieved something, we rejoice with them. That is why we give out chocolates because we want to celebrate the joy with you.

Example of Jonathan 21<sup>st</sup>. I am so touched to see he has many good friends that can support him and walk through his life.

So, brothers and sisters, don't think that you are going to be ok without connecting to the body of Christ, the church, you need us to achieve the kingdom's agenda. Don't think that you are not good enough to be in the church, because we need you. We are here and committed to support one another to walk through this Christian life together with you.