

May 23, 2021

## Christ's One Body

By Michael Hickox

# Olney Church of Christ

220 North Van Street  
P.O. Box 683  
Olney, IL 62450  
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[www.olneychurchofchrist.org](http://www.olneychurchofchrist.org)

## Services

### Sunday

Bible Study	9:30 am
A.M. Worship	10:20 am
P.M. Worship	2:00 pm

### Wednesday

Bible Class	7:00 pm
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**Elders:** Mike Gerber, Travis Hall

**Deacons:** John Frost, Dave Goff,  
Roger Sholders

*Visitors are welcome*

*We offer Bible classes for all ages*

*We also offer in-home Bible studies*

We have Bible lessons on the radio  
(92.9 FM) Sundays from 8:00-8:30 a.m.

When the word “church” is found in the New Testament, it almost always comes from the Greek word *ekklesia* (in the *KJV*, **Acts 19:37** is the only time the word “church” is translated from another word).

The vast majority of the time *ekklesia* is used in the New Testament, the word is translated “church,” and refers specifically to a “called out” assembly of people who are in Christ.

The word “church” is one term among several that describes the collective body of those who are in Christ.

In **1 Timothy 3:15**, the church is called “*the house of God*” (i.e., household or family of God). In **Ephesians 2:21**, the church is called “*a holy temple in the Lord.*” In **Ephesians 1:23**, the church is referred to as Christ’s “*body.*”

Though several terms are used to describe the church, they are not “denominations” of the Lord’s body. Rather, multiple terms are used to describe the *same* body.

Just as Jesus may be called “Lord,” “Savior,” “Christ,” “King,” “Redeemer,” “Prophet,” “High Priest,” etc., “the church” may be called “church of

# Christ's One Body

(Continued)

Christ," "church of God," "kingdom of Christ," "family of God," "temple of the Lord," "body of Christ," etc.

**Ephesians 4:4** makes it clear that these terms all refer to just one church, as it states, "***There is one body.***"

Having said this, there *are* times Scripture uses the word "***churches***" in the plural form (**Rom. 16:16; Gal. 1:2**).

The reason for this is that while the church is sometimes referred to in the "universal" sense (all Christians throughout the world), it is at other times referred to in the "local" sense (Christians who meet together at a particular location to carry out the work of the church). The distinction between different "***churches***" in Scripture is not what doctrine they are to follow or who their source of authority is. Rather, they are distinguished from one another by location.

The apostle Paul wrote to the church "***at Corinth***" (**1 Cor. 1:2; 2 Cor. 1:1**). He wrote to saints "***at Ephesus***" (**Eph. 1:1**), "***at Philippi***" (**Phil. 1:1**), and "***at Colosse***" (**Col. 1:2**). He referenced a church that was "***of the Thessalonians***" (**1 Thess. 1:1; 2 Thess. 1:1**), but this again identified their location. Doctrinally,

this church was "***in God the father and in the Lord Jesus Christ***" (**1 Thess. 1:1; cf. 2 Thess. 1:1**).

This was true of all local churches in the New Testament. None were identified as belonging to a fallible man. Rather, each one belonged to God and Christ (**1 Cor. 1:2; 2 Cor. 1:1; Eph. 1:1; Phil. 1:1; Col. 1:2**).

This is the core factor that unifies Christians. Those in the Lord's body find unity by looking to the same *Head*, who has given us the same *message* and is the Savior of us *all*.

The "***one body***" (**Eph. 4:4**) is "***His body***" (**Eph. 1:23**). **Colossians 1:18** says, "***He is the head of the body, the church: Who is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead; that in all things He might have the preeminence.***"

Unity is found by heeding the Head's authoritative instruction. As God the Father said in **Matthew 17:5**, "***This is my beloved Son, in Whom I am well pleased; hear ye Him.***"

In the religious world, there is a diversity of doctrines and creeds. In Christ, there is unity.

## God's Plan for Saving Man

God's Grace	Ephesians 2:8
Christ's Blood	Romans 5:9
The Holy Spirit's Gospel	Romans 1:16
Sinner's Faith	Acts 16:31
Sinner's Repentance	Luke 13:3
Sinner's Confession	Romans 10:10
Sinner's Baptism	1 Peter 3:21
Christian's Work	James 2:24
Christian's Hope	Romans 8:24
Christian's Endurance	Revelation 2:10

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## Words to Consider

***“For am I now seeking the favor of men, or of God? Or am I striving to please men? If I were still pleasing men, I should not be a servant of Christ. For I make known to you, brethren, as touching the Gospel which was preached by me, that it is not after man. For neither did I receive it from man, nor was I taught it, but it came to me through revelation of Jesus Christ.” – Galatians 1:10-12***

## Prayer List

Holly G  
Sandy S  
Cheryl S  
Norma C  
Raymond & Maxine  
Barbara G (Cancer)  
Justice G (Perthes disease)  
Robert C  
Stivers' son-in-law, Don  
Gerry S (Cancer in leg)  
Ken G (Prostate Cancer)  
Dan H / John & Cynde

## Daily Bible Reading

May 23 – Ruth; Luke 8:1-25  
May 24 – 1 Samuel 1-4; Luke 8:26-56  
May 25 – 1 Samuel 5-9; Luke 9:1-27  
May 26 – 1 Samuel 10-13; Luke 9:28-62  
May 27 – 1 Samuel 14-15; Luke 10  
May 28 – 1 Samuel 16-18; Luke 11:1-28  
May 29 – 1 Samuel 19-21; Luke 11:29-54

***“I will never forget your precepts, for with them, you have revived me.” – Psalm 119:93***

**Prayer Leaders**

Sunday, May 23, 2021

Bible Study: Jim

Worship: Travis

Evening: Dan D

Wednesday, May 26, 2021

Douglas

**Assignments**

Sunday, May 30, 2021

Reading: Darrell

Announcements: Steve

Table: Dave

Serve: Travis

Roger

**Clean Building**

Janice

**Prepare Communion**

Janice

Wednesday, June 2, 2021

Invitation:

**Upcoming Reminders**

**Anniversaries**

May 30 – Larry & Patsy

June 7 – Michael & Julzy

June 10 – Jeff & Patty

June 13 – Douglas & Madison

June 23 – Mason & Stephanie

**Birthdays**

May 23 – Jeanette

June 2 – June

June 16 – Jenna