

Body of Christ

I. Introduction

A. Scripture uses a number of figures and metaphors to paint portraits for us of what being Christ's disciples is about. Among these is the term "body of Christ" used in reference to the church and "members" of the body used in reference to Christians. Consider some things Scripture teaches connected to this theme. **1 Corinthians 12:27**

II. The Body Belongs to Christ

A. The term "body of Christ" indicates *possession* on Christ's part. Those who are members of Christ's body are not our own, but have been "purchased" by the Lord (cf. **1 Cor. 6:19-20**). **Ephesians 1:22-23; Acts 20:28**

III. The Head Has All Authority

A. Just as the physical body has a head that makes decisions for the rest of the body, the same is true with the body of Christ. As our Head, Christ has full authority to direct each of us individually, and direct each local body's collective work. Our job is to submit to Him. **Ephesians 1:20-23; 5:23-24**

IV. The Body is Nourished and Cherished

A. The direction Christ gives members of His body is for our benefit and nourishment, and demonstrates the perfect care Christ has for His body. **Ephesians 5:29-30; 5:25-26**

V. Members are Immensely Blessed

A. Christ's body is the place in which all spiritual blessings are found. Redemption, reconciliation, and adoption into God's family are all accessed *in Christ*. **Ephesians 1:3-7ff**

VI. All Members Matter to God

A. Membership in Christ's body involves identification with Him, but it also involves being a fellow-member with others who are a part of God's family. While members of the body have a variety of backgrounds and talents, all faithful Christians enjoy equal *access* to God and equal *importance* to Him. This leaves no room for arrogance or envy on the part of the body's members. **1 Corinthians 12:14-22**

VII. All Members Must Do Their Part

A. The importance of *all* members of the body infers that each of us must do our part for the body to function as God desires. **1 Corinthians 12:22**

B. This is exemplified in the Holy Spirit's teaching about church growth. For the body to grow, each *member* of the body must be growing. **Ephesians 4:15-16**

VIII. Members Have Differences...

A. The need for each member of the body to do his or her share is amplified by the fact that members have differing talents, abilities, opportunities, etc. **Romans 12:4-6a; 1 Corinthians 12:17**

IX. ...But the Body is One

A. Though these differences exist, there is *one* body of Christ, which all members are united together in. **Ephesians 4:4; 2:16-18**

B. Unity with fellow members is thus something to strive for (cf. **Eph. 4:1-3**), as is proper treatment of those Christ unites us together with. **Ephesians 4:25; 1 Corinthians 12:25-26**