

## The Church Is One Body

Last week we discovered that the body of Christ, the church and the kingdom are spoken of in scripture as one in the same. The body of Christ, is the church of Christ, is the kingdom of Christ.

Now let me ask a question. If there is only one body (Eph. 4:4), then how many churches and how many kingdoms are there? This has been one of the most controversial topics in Christianity for hundreds of years. For centuries many have taught that the body of Christ is made up of all bodies of believers that call themselves Christian and believe Jesus to be the Son of God, (even though they are structured differently, teach a plethora of different doctrines and worship in different manners). But doesn't that teaching suffer from false logic? Logic tells us that if there is one body, and if the body, the church and the kingdom are one in the same, according to the writings of Peter and Paul and the teachings of Christ in the New Testament, then there must be of necessity only one church and only one kingdom. Not only logic, but the Scriptures teach the same. After all Jesus didn't say that He was going to build His "churches". He said "church" singular, (Matt. 16:18). But those who teach that a multitude of different bodies make up the 'one' body of Christ, lead us to a false understanding of scripture. For if that were true, the body of Christ would be made up of confusion, schisms and variety, leaving no place for the unity of the body that Christ prayed for (Jn. 17), the same unity that Paul taught must exist in the body of Christ, (1 Cor. 1:10; Eph. 4:3)

Paul often used the analogy of the physical human body as compared to the body of Christ. He said, "For just as we have many members in one body and all the members do not have the same function, so we, who are many, are one body in Christ, and individually members one of another", (Rom. 12:4-5). He also said, "For even as the body is one and yet has many members, and all the members of the body, though they are many, are one body, so also is Christ. For by one Spirit we were all baptized into one body, whether Jews or Greeks, whether slaves or free, and we were all made to drink of one Spirit. For the body is not one member, but many", (1 Cor. 12:12-14). Notice that Paul didn't say that the body is made up of different bodies, but of different individual members. The following verses of 1 Cor. 12 validate this, especially verse 27, "Now you are Christ's body, and individually members of it".

Paul also makes an interesting statement in 1 Cor. 12:13, "For by one Spirit we were all baptized into one body,...". Was he speaking of Holy Spirit baptism, or water baptism? Did he really mean to say that the way 'into the body' was through baptism? Again there are many and varied teachings on these topics. And needless to say, a lot of those teachings are contrary to plain Bible teaching. We will continue to sort through these questions and more, and deal with Bible teaching on these subjects in the next few weeks. If you have any comments or input on these subjects, email me at the address below. It should be our aim to always let the Bible be our guide in all things spiritual. In that manner we can't go wrong in doing things God's way. After all, it is God's word that will judge us in the last day, (John 12:48). May God bless us in our study of His truths.

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