

Christ is Head of the Body

- Ephesians 1:22-23
- The church is *His* body
- The head controls the body
 - Christ as the Head controls His body, the church
 - The church is subject to Christ
- What does it mean to be subject to a head?

The church as a body

- Romans 12:4-8
- 1 Corinthians 12:12-31
- Ephesians 4:11-16
- Picture a body operating in complete union and harmony
- A body consists of many members
 - Hands, feet, eyes, ears, etc.

The church as a body

- Members are united in one body
 - Romans 12:4-5
 - 1 Corinthians 12:12-20
- Every member of a body equally important
 - 1 Corinthians 12:21-23
- Every member has work to perform
 - Romans 12:4, 6-8
 - 1 Corinthians 12:14-19

The church as a body

- No schism among members
 - 1 Corinthians 12:24-25
- Mutual interest and care
 - Sympathy
 - Suffering and rejoicing
 - 1 Corinthians 12:25-27

Members of the body...

- Love one another - Romans 13:8
- Edify one another – Romans 14:19
- Comfort one another – 1 Thessalonians 4:18
- Admonish one another – Romans 15:14
- Serve one another – Galatians 5:13
- Bear one another's burdens – Galatians 6:2
- Forgive one another – Ephesians 4:32

Ephesians 4:11-16

- Goal of the body and its gifts
 - The equipping of the saints
 - For the work of ministry
 - For the edifying of the body of Christ
 - Unity of the faith & knowledge
 - To grow up
 - Not being tossed back and forth by false doctrine
 - But speaking the truth in love
 - Edify itself in love

Ephesians 4:16 – The body

- Fitly joined together (KJV)
 - Consider the framing of a house harmoniously constructed and joined
- Compacted (KJV) – Knit (NKJV)
 - Consider knitting or sewn together into one piece
- Through that which every joint supplieth
 - Think of joints that fasten and connect
 - “Each member is seen as a band of supply” (Colly Caldwell, Ephesians, p. 192)
 - Each member contributing

Ephesians 4:16 – The body

- According to the effective working by which every part does its share
 - Each member exerting self to full extent
- Causes growth of the body
 - Individually growing, yes
 - But individual growth contributes to the good and growth of the entire body
- What is the food needed for growth of the body?

How Important is it to be a member of the one body?

- The body is the saved. If you are not a member of the body, you are not saved. (Ephesians 5:23)
- You are not reconciled to God if you are not in the one body, for we are reconciled to God in the one body. (Ephesians 2:16)
- Members of the body of Christ are ones who have been baptized into His body. If you are not baptized into His body, you are not a member of His body, His church. (1 Corinthians 12:13)

Review Questions

- The church is the _____ of _____.
- _____ is the _____ of the body.
- How many bodies does Christ have?
 - Then how many churches does He have?
- How many heads does the body have?
- How is the church like a body?
- How much authority does Christ have over His body?
- What are the individual units of the body?
- As a member of the body of Christ, what are my responsibilities in relation to
 - The head?
 - The other members?