



### The Church as the Body of Christ

- Human bodies are a lesser picture of the greater body of Christ.
- v. 12 – The word “\_\_\_\_\_” is substituted for “\_\_\_\_\_.”
  - Paul clearly understands Christ and His church to be inseparable.
    - You cannot claim to love Christ while despising the church.
    - This idea parallels perfectly with the understanding that the church is the bride of Christ (Ephesians 5:30-32).
  - Churchless Christianity is not biblical Christianity.
    - As the body of Christ, the church is inseparable from its Head, the Lord Jesus Christ.
    - Problem #1: \_\_\_\_\_ – Christ is removed as the exalted Head of the church (something else is primary)
    - Problem #2: \_\_\_\_\_ – The church is removed as the epicenter of God’s activity on earth.
- Three implications that flow from the fact that you are part of the body of Christ...

#### 1.) Your \_\_\_\_\_ in the body of Christ is \_\_\_\_\_.

- v. 12 – The many parts (believers) form just one unit/body (church).
  - A body part in isolation from its body is really gross!
  - Both the amputated organ and the disconnected Christian destroy themselves and weaken the overall body (v. 26).
- We are called to \_\_\_\_\_, not just to believe (Romans 12:5).
- We are incomplete and outside of God’s will living in isolation.

- Because God has created you and saved you to be one integral part of a larger living organism, your proper place in God's plan can only be discovered in the body of Christ.
- If you are not deeply involved in the local church, then you are missing your true purpose in life.

**2.) Your \_\_\_\_\_ in the body of Christ is \_\_\_\_\_ (v. 14-19).**

- Being a part of the body of Christ is not about receiving any particular spiritual gift; it is about receiving Christ (v. 14-15).
- As it is with the body, so it is with the church. Because each part is unique, it is indispensable to the whole.
- We need each other because none of us alone is remotely sufficient to fulfill God's purposes.
- **Our unity is strengthened, not weakened, by our \_\_\_\_\_.**
  - God delights to bring unity in the midst of diversity.
  - We are unified because, in spite of any worldly differences, we are all a part of Christ.

**3.) A chief \_\_\_\_\_ in the body of Christ must be \_\_\_\_\_ (v. 21-27).**

- v. 4-11 – Paul defines our unity by the fact that we have all received the same Spirit.
  - The Spirit of God is to the church what blood is to the body. It alone equips and empowers to each part.
- v. 13 – Baptism with the Holy Spirit is universal, initial Christian experience (Romans 8:9).
  - We are unified by our common baptism in the Holy Spirit.
- v. 21-25 – A spirit of \_\_\_\_\_ is intolerable to God.
  - Being part of the church requires a spirit of humility, gentleness, and deference to one another (Colossians 3:11-14).

**Application**

- 1.) Because we are all part of Christ's one body, we must be deeply involved in the church. If you are not deeply involved in a local body of Christ, then you are missing God's purpose for your life and your mission in the world (v. 27 (NLT), Hebrews 3:13).

- 2.) Because God has designed each of us to be a unique part of the body of Christ, each of us is called to exercise his gifts in the \_\_\_\_\_ for the glory of God and the benefit of one another (Ephesians 2:10, 1 Peter 4:10.)
- 3.) Because we are belong to one body—the body of Christ—God intends for us to pursue unity wholeheartedly in the church (John 17:23, 1 Corinthians 1:10, Ephesians 4:3, Titus 3:10-11).