

Lesson 4**The Body of Christ****I. The Church Called the Body of Christ:**

- A. Clearly emphasizing our relationship to Christ and to fellow Christians.
 - 1. Church is His Body (Eph. 1:23).
 - 2. Body is the Church (Col. 1:18, 24).

II. The New Testament Teaches That There is One Body. This figure emphasizes the singularity of the Church:

- A. Many members—one body (Rom. 12:4-5); but one body (1 Cor. 12:20).
- B. Jew and Gentile reconciled in one body (Eph. 2:16).
- C. One Lord, one faith, one baptism, ONE BODY (Eph. 4:4-5).
- D. Conclusion: If there is but one spiritual Body of Christ and that is the Church—How many Churches of Christ are there?

III. Christ is the Head of His Spiritual Body—The Church (Col. 1:18; Eph. 1:23).

- A. His dominion over the Church is complete—"Head over all things to the Church which is His Body" (Eph. 1:23).
- B. Just as the members of one's physical body must be subject to his mind—so we must be subject to Christ in everything as members of His Body (Eph. 5:24).
 - 1. What the Head commands we can and must do.
 - 2. What He does not command and teach we must not do (2 John 9).
- C. From the Head come the impulses that strengthen and move the members of the Body in the performance of their work (Eph. 4:15-16).

IV. Christians are members of the Body of Christ:

- A. Relationship to Christ as head—complete subjection.
- B. Relationship to fellow Christians as members—one of complete union and harmony.
 - 1. Every joint supplying his part makes the body strong (Eph. 4:16).
 - 2. Many members united in one body (Rom. 12:4-5; 1 Cor. 12:12-20).
 - 3. Each member has work to perform (1 Cor. 12:14-19).
 - 4. Each member equally important (1 Cor. 12:21-23).
 - 5. Must be no schism or discord among members (1 Cor. 12:24-25).
 - 6. Sympathetic interest and mutual care for each other (1 Cor. 12:25-27).
 - 7. Bound together as one body in Christ by ties of fellowship (1 Cor. 10:17).

V. Importance of Being Members of Body:

- A. The Body made up of the saved (Eph. 5:23).

- B. Called unto peace of Christ in one Body (Col. 3:15).
- C. Cannot be subject to head and united with Christ without being member of Body—compare with physical body.
- D. Reconciled to God in Body (Eph. 2:16).
- E. Fullness of Christ in Body (Eph. 1:3, 23).
- F. Become members of Body by obeying commands of Christ (1 Cor. 12:13; Acts 2:41).

Questions for Discussion:

1. What is the Spiritual Body of Christ? _____

2. Who are its members? How do we become such? _____

3. Can a man who is not a member be obedient and subject to Christ? _____

4. How complete is the authority of Christ over His Body? _____

5. What are some of the obligations of its members? _____

6. How many Bodies does Christ have? _____

7. What relationships are emphasized in this picture of the Church? _____

8. How is the Body as a whole to be built up? _____

9. Where is reconciliation made possible? _____

10. Can salvation and spiritual blessings be enjoyed outside of the Body of Christ? _____
