

# THE PROMINENT ASPECTS OF THE GLAD TIDINGS

## Part 7: ONE BODY

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TGOCM

According to Eph. 1:22-23, the church (those who believe regarding the Christ) is the Body of Christ. We are all the same in Christ, defined by the Glad Tidings of Christ. No one member is above another and no one group is above another in this Body. Yet, we all have different functions. Together we are the habitation of God.

1. *“So then ye are no more strangers and sojourners, but ye are fellow-citizens with the saints, and of the household of God, being built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Christ Jesus himself being the chief corner stone; in whom each several building, fitly framed together, grows into a holy temple in the Lord; in whom you also are being built together for a habitation of God in the Spirit.”* (Eph. 2:19-22)
2. (In the new man) *“where there cannot be Greek and Jew, circumcision and uncircumcision, barbarian, Scythian, bondman, freeman; but Christ is all, and in all.”* (Col. 3:11, ASV)

E. W. Bullinger, in Number in Scripture on page 50 of the 1984 edition, states, *“One is indivisible”* and *“One excludes all differences, for there is no second with which it can either harmonize or conflict.”* Note how often the word “one” is stated in relation to us, the Body of Christ:

3. *“There is no Jew nor Greek; there is no bondman nor freeman; there is no male and female; for ye are all one in Christ Jesus.”* (Gal. 3:28, DBY)
4. *“For as the body is one, and hath many members, and all the members of the body, being many, are one body; so also is Christ. For in one Spirit were we all baptized into one body, whether Jews or Greeks, whether bond or free; and were all made to drink of one Spirit.”* (1 Cor. 12:12-13)

Every member of the Body of Christ equally shares in all the richness that is in Christ. He is all, and in all of us. Because of this truth there are no differences between us. We are the same, in that every spiritual reality in Christ is true for each member of the Body. God sees no differences among us: no different denominations, no different churches, etc.

The Body of Christ is THE Church (Eph. 1:22-23 & Col. 1:24). God has given us this new identity so that we would agree with him, accepting our God-given identity. If we don’t accept this truth, then we will be fostering divisions and separations in the Body of Christ.

*“What therefore God has joined together, let not man separate.”* (Mr. 10:9 ESV)

*“Therefore, my brothers, you also were put to death to the law through the body of Christ, that you may be married to another--to Him who was raised from the dead, so that we might bear fruit to God.”* (Ro 7:4 EMTV)

The context of this verse is marriage. Now, think about its rich truth regarding our (the Body’s) marriage to Christ and each member being joined to each other.

Is one member more important than another in our Body of Christ? No! Reproof is given in 1 Corinthians 12:14-27 in two ways for saints who aren’t yet accepting our equality we have acquired in Christ.

1. Correction for those who deem others more important than themselves:

***“14 For the body does not consist of one member but of many. 15 If the foot should say, “Because I am not a hand, I do not belong to the body,” that would not make it any less a part of the body. 16 And if the ear should say, “Because I am not an eye, I do not belong to the body,” that would not make it any less a part of the body. 17 If the whole body were an eye, where would be the sense of hearing? If the whole body were an ear, where would be the sense of smell? 18 But as it is, God arranged the members in the body, each one of them, as he chose. 19 If all were a single member, where would the body be? 20 As it is, there are many parts, yet one body.”***

2. Correction for those who deem themselves more important than others:

***21 The eye cannot say to the hand, “I have no need of you,” nor again the head to the feet, “I have no need of you.” 22 On the contrary, the parts of the body that seem to be weaker are indispensable, 23 and on those parts of the body that we think less honorable we bestow the greater honor, and our unpresentable parts are treated with greater modesty, 24 which our more presentable parts do not require. But God has so composed the body, giving greater honor to the part that lacked it,”***

Regarding both corrections:

***25 that there may be no division in the body, but that the members may have the same care for one another. 26 If one member suffers, all suffer together; if one member is honored, all rejoice together. 27 ¶ Now you are the body of Christ and individually members of it.”*** (1Co 12:14-27 ESV)

Not one of us in the Body of Christ is more or less important than another. We have all been blessed with all spiritual blessings (Eph. 1:3). Not one of us in the Body of Christ is lacking any spiritual ability to purely carry out God’s will. Yet, we all function differently according as God has placed us in this Body. As you see yourself functioning in the Body, so do! Our standard for functioning is *the grace that has been given us in Christ*. These truths of our doctrine give us the boundaries in which we are to function.

***“3 For I say, through the grace that was given to me, to every one who is among you, not to think above (outside the appointed boundaries of) what it behoveth to think; but to think so as to think wisely, as to each God did deal a measure (standard) of faith, 4 for as in one body we have many members, and all the members have not the same office (function), 5 so we, the many, one body are in Christ, and members each one of one another. 6 And having gifts, according to the grace that was given to us, different; whether prophecy — ‘According to the proportion of faith!’ 7 or ministration — ‘In the ministration!’ or he who is teaching — ‘In the teaching!’ 8 or he who is exhorting — ‘In the exhortation!’ he who is sharing — ‘In simplicity!’ he who is leading — ‘In diligence?’ he who is doing kindness — ‘In cheerfulness.’”*** (Ro 12:3-8 YLT)

The Body of Christ is Christ, for, ***“Christ is all, and in all.”*** In this Body nobody is more important than another. We are all the same in our identity in Christ; we have been given the same standard of ***“the faith.”*** Yet, we all have different functions, and are directed to function accordingly.

***“from whom the whole body, fitted together, and connected by every joint of supply, according to the working in its measure of each one part, works for itself the increase of the body to its self-building up in love.”*** (Eph 4:16 Darby)

***“each according as he has received a gift, ministering it to one another, as good stewards of the various grace of God. 11 If any one speak — as oracles of God; if any one minister — as of strength which God supplies; that God in all things may be glorified through Jesus Christ, to whom is the glory and the might for the ages of ages. Amen.”*** (1Pe 4:10-11 Darby)