

“You are the Body of Christ!”

October 19th & 20th, 2013

1 Corinthians 12:4-27

“The description of Christ’s church as a body is one of the most distinctive and significant teachings of Paul. Indeed, the apostle tells us that he was given a special revelation concerning this ‘mystery,’ which was hidden for many ages; namely, that God’s people, both Jews and Gentiles, are now constituted one body by virtue of Christ’s exaltation (Eph. 1:22,23; 3:2-6) Both the existence and the growth of the church derive from this unity established by Christ through the Spirit.”¹

The Church...

... is not a human organization ... ***it is*** a spiritual organism.

↳ The church is alive and growing by the power and presence of Almighty God!

... is not a series of meetings to be attended – we do not “attend” church ... ***We are the Church!***

1 Corinthians 12:27

... is not a product, fashioned by professionals, for consumers!

... is not a program, designed to attract certain people who are targeted through a demographic study of a community!

What is the Church?

❖ The church is the people, called by God into His Kingdom through Jesus Christ, and arranged by Him into fellowship around the world to fulfill His eternal purposes!

Ephesians 2:19-21 “So then you are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God, built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Christ Jesus Himself being the cornerstone, in whom the whole structure, being joined together, grows into a holy temple in the Lord.”

1 Peter 2:9-10 “But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for His own possession, that you may proclaim the excellencies of Him who called you out of darkness into His marvelous light. Once you were not a people, but now you are God’s people; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy.”

❖ The church is one body with many members! *1 Corinthians 12:12*

♦ There are a variety of gifts, service and activities all empowered by the Spirit of God, for the common good of all the members! *1 Corinthians 12:4-7*

♦ The gifts of God are all supernatural and practical from healing and miracles to helps and administration. *1 Corinthians 12:9,28*

What is the difference between a healthy church and an unhealthy church?

❖ Two reasons for a “dysfunctional” body:

- ♦ Those who say, “I do not belong to the body because I do not have a particular gift.” *1 Corinthians 12:15*
 - ↳ Note that God has arranged the members as He chooses! *1 Corinthians 12:18*
- ♦ Those who say, “I have no need of you because my gifts are all I need.” *1 Corinthians 12:21*
 - ↳ The attitude of “Spiritual Superiority” kills the growth of the body of Christ!
1 Corinthians 12:22-25
 - ↳ The people whose gifts are less noticed are in fact more indispensable than the other more public gifts!

❖ Indicators of a healthy body

- ♦ The members have an understanding of the Lordship of Christ! *1 Corinthians 12:3*
- ♦ The members have a sincere care for one another and are doing their part to serve each other as God has enabled them! *1 Corinthians 12:25*
- ♦ The members understand the reason for Leaders, Teachers, Discipleship, Bible studies, Worship services, which are all an essential part of His church.
📖 Ephesians 4:11-16

Everyone has a gift from God and a part to play in the growth of His church.
Don't waste your life! You are Equipped to Serve!

Endnotes:

¹ Sproul, R.C. *The Reformation Study Bible*. Orlando: Ligonier Ministries, 2005.

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