

Part of



His Body

Disciples of Jesus - 7

- We have been studying what it means to be a disciple of Jesus
- We have compared ourselves to athletes, soldiers, clay in the hand of a potter



Part of



His Body

Disciples of Jesus - 7

The Church is the Body of Christ

- A subject we need oft reminders.
- It is misunderstood by many
- It is frequently addressed in the NT
- Acts records her beginning
- Several NT books written to churches
- Within its pages we can discern her pattern



The Church is the Body of Christ

- What is the church?
 - from ἐκκλησία, (ekklēsia) which means “called out” and refers to an assembly.
- “Church” is an assembly of God’s people



The Church is the Body of Christ

Used in 2 senses in NT

- **Universal** - all who are saved of all time- **Matthew 16:18, Ephesians 1:22-23**
- **Local** - the “saved” in a given location who join together to do the collective work the Lord has assigned to them - **cf. 1 Corinthians 1:2**



The Church is the Body of Christ

- The church IS the body of Christ - **Matthew 16:18,**
Ephesians 1:22-23,
Colossians 1:18
1 Corinthians 12:27
- The church is the body of the saved - **Acts 2:47**
Ephesians 5:23



Are you a part of a local body?

One who is saved OUGHT to be part of a local church!

- **Ephesians 3:10-11**, a manifestation of God's wisdom

It is FROM God! Why do we call ourselves what we do?

A designation -

**cf. 1 Corinthians 1:2,
Romans 16:16**



Are you a part of a local body?

As part of a congregation

- The church is the body of the saved (also locally). Shouldn't we desire to part of God's people?
- We are identified with Him - **1 Corinthians 12:27**. Is it my desire to be identified with Him and others who are also?

This is the essence of discipleship!



Are you a part of a local body?

As part of a congregation

- We find support and edification.

Why did God give us local churches? We need each other! **Hebrews 10:24-25, Ephesians 4:12, 1 Thessalonians 5:11, Galatians 6:1, etc.**



Are you a part of a local body?

As part of a congregation

- Strength in numbers

In troubling times, we need to be together

Ecclesiastes 4:9-12

Hebrews 3:12-13 - we exhort each other so that we will not depart from the faith



Are you a part of a local body?

As part of a congregation

- Final thought:

Is the local church part of
God's pattern?

If it is, we ought to value its
importance!



Functioning as part of His body

The body in relation to Christ

- He is the head!

Colossians 1:18,

Ephesians 1:22-23

He has all authority -

Matthew 28:18.

ARE we willing to submit to
Him in all we do?



Functioning as part of His body

The body in relation to one another

- **1 Corinthians 12:12-27**
this passage helps us understand the analogy of the body, and what it means to function together!



Functioning as part of His body

The body in relation to one another

- Our spiritual relationship

1 Corinthians 12:13

We are baptized into Christ -

Mark 16:16, Acts 22:16,

Romans 6:3-4, etc.

- Our differences should NOT matter - **Galatians 3:26-28**



Functioning as part of His body

The body in relation to one another

- We are all important and needed
- **1 Cor. 12:14-16**

We all have limitations and strengths. Some God given, others developed

We cannot act independently and be part of the body!

- If you choose to NOT be your part, are you pleasing God?



Functioning as part of His body

The body in relation to one another

- We are all important and needed - **1 Cor. 12:14-16**

Some reason they are unimportant and thus not needed.

Instead of quitting, be the best you can be.



Functioning as part of His body

The body in relation to one another

- I need to be me - **1 Cor. 12:17**

Every part has a different function!
All are needed for the body to fully function.

- In the church we all have unique traits - **Romans 12:3-8**

- Do we become bitter because we do not get our way?

James 3:13-15



Functioning as part of His body

The body in relation to one another

- We are exactly where God wants us
- **1 Cor. 12:18-20**

IF I am where He wants, I need to give my best - **Colossians 3:23, Ecclesiastes 9:10**

- Will we let God mold us?
- **Vs. 19-20** - what if everyone were just like me?
We are like an orchestra!



Functioning as part of His body

The body in relation to one another

- We must humbly appreciate each other - **1 Cor. 12:21**
God resists the arrogant!
- Do not dismiss others as less or unimportant!
Instead APPRECIATE what they can do!
- **Romans 12:3, Phil. 2:3-5**



Functioning as part of His body

The body in relation to one another

- We must humbly appreciate each other - **1 Cor. 12:21**

Let us not avoid one another because of differences or dislikes

- Consider **Galatians 5:13-15**

- **Ephesians 4:1-3** - unity is something we must ALL work at!



Functioning as part of His body

The body in relation to one another

- Members we deem “less honorable” -

1 Cor. 12:22-24

Which parts of our body are most important? The internals

- Where would we be without those working behind the scenes?

- Be careful before you judge someone merely by appearance!

Matthew 23:11-12,

Luke 18:14 - whose prayer was heard?



Functioning as part of His body

The body in relation to one another

- No schism in the body **1 Cor. 12:25-26**

Schism means a tearing apart! (**Cf. Matthew 9:16**)

- When a tendon tears,...
- Spiritually, we must work to bear with one another's weaknesses - **Romans 14, etc.**



Functioning as part of His body

The body in relation to one another

- No schism in the body **1 Cor. 12:25-26**

How do we prevent schism?

- With “the same love for one another”
We have to care!

Cf. 1 Corinthians 13:1-8

- If one suffers, all do - **Romans 12:15, Galatians 6:2**

Cf. 1 Corinthians 5:1-2 - why
where they NOT mourning?



Functioning as part of His body

The body in relation to one another

- You are the body of Christ, and members individually!

1 Corinthians 12:27

The “body of Christ” here is likely a reference to their local church

- Being autonomous, each church answers directly to Christ, the head!

And so do we as individuals!



Functioning as part of His body

The body in relation to one another

- Finally consider **Ephesians 4:11-16**, a passage that reminds us that our growth comes when “every part does its share”



IF we want to get to heaven, WE
NEED EACH OTHER!

Will we do our part to ensure His
body is functioning at its fullest
potential?



What about you?

Are you doing your part to help
this spiritual growth?



Let us pray!



