

ADVANCED BIBLICAL COURSE



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The Body of Christ

THE NATURE OF THE BODY

1 CORINTHIANS 12:13

- ◆ We are automatically placed in the “body of Christ” by the Holy Spirit when we are born again.

EPHESIANS 1:22,23 – “The body is the Church”

- ◆ The Church = the “ekklesia” or “called out” people of God.
- ◆ Not buildings or organizations!
- ◆ It is universal.
- ◆ It consists of people of all races and nationalities.

REVELATION. 1:19-20 – The body is grouped in local congregations

- ◆ Geographic convenience is the only basis for division.
- ◆ No other reason, not even doctrine! Except false doctrine. (Galatians 1:7-8 & 2 Corinthians 6:14-18)
- ◆ We must be led by the Holy Spirit to commit ourselves to a local congregation.

EPHESIANS 4:1-4 – Though divided geographically – it is one body

- ◆ We are members of the church universal.
- ◆ We must honour, support and be loyal to the rest of the body.
- ◆ We must do all we can to express and preserve unity.

EPHESIANS 5:23-24 – Jesus is the Head and Lord of the body

- ◆ Each local body must submit to and obey Him.
- ◆ Leaders and people must continually seek and receive instructions from Jesus, the Head.

1 PETER 5:1-4 – Jesus has delegated authority and responsibility to the elders for the local body

- ◆ There must be a plurality of elders for safety and sharing of responsibility.

- ◆ Elders must “oversee”, “shepherd” and be examples to the people (but not “Lord it” over the people).
- ◆ Elders, Bishops, Pastors are the same people. (Acts 20,17 & 28 & Titus 1:5-7)
- ◆ Elders are accountable to God for those who commit themselves to their care.

HEBREWS 13:17 – Committed people are to submit to and obey elders

- ◆ Unconditional submission – conditional obedience.
- ◆ Because God chooses to use them as instruments in the lives of the people.
- ◆ People for their own benefit, must pray for and confront elders with their weaknesses.

1 CORINTHIANS 12:14-27 – Each one is a “part” of the body

- ◆ We are a part whether we like it or not.
- ◆ No “saints in isolation.”
- ◆ All parts different.
- ◆ All parts are necessary for overall growth and efficiency.
- ◆ All parts are important.
- ◆ All parts must be in the right place.
- ◆ All parts must function properly.
- ◆ All parts need one another! No independence.
- ◆ All parts care for one another, and build each other and the entire body up.
- ◆ All parts rejoice and suffer together.
- ◆ All parts work together in harmony.
- ◆ All parts must honour and be loyal to each other.

MATTHEW 28:19-20 – The Commission for the body

- ◆ Make disciples.
- ◆ All nations.