

A THOROUGH VIEW OF THE BODY OF CHRIST

Message One

The Origin of the Body of Christ

Scripture Reading: Gal. 4:6; Rom. 8:15; John 1:12-13; 1 Pet. 1:2a; Luke 15:8, 17; John 16:8-11; 3:5-6; Rom. 8:19; 1 Cor. 6:15; 12:27; Col. 3:4a; 1 John 1:2; 5:11-12; John 3:36a; Matt. 28:19; 1 Cor. 12:13a; Col. 2:9; John 1:14a; Heb. 2:14a, 17-18; John 14:16-17; 7:39; Rev. 22:17a; 1 Cor. 15:3-4, 45b; John 15:1, 5; 17:21a, 23a

I. God the Father being the believers' source—Gal. 4:6; Rom. 8:15:

- A. Who are begotten of God the Father—John 1:13.
- B. Who become the children of God the Father—John 1:12.

II. God the Spirit sanctifying and regenerating the ones selected and pre-designated by God the Father:

- A. Sanctifying them—1 Pet. 1:2a:
 - 1. Enlightening and seeking them—Luke 15:8, 17.
 - 2. Convicting the enlightened ones—John 16:8-11.
- B. Regenerating them—John 3:5-6:
 - 1. To be the sons of God—Rom. 8:19.
 - 2. To be the members of Christ—1 Cor. 6:15; 12:27.

III. God the Son being life to the regenerated ones—Col. 3:4a:

- A. For the members of Christ to receive the uncreated and eternal life of God—1 John 1:2; 5:11-12; John 3:36a.
- B. Bringing the members of Christ into an organic union with the Triune God—Matt. 28:19.

IV. The Father, the Son, and the Spirit becoming the consummated Spirit who baptizes the members of Christ into the unique Body of Christ—1 Cor. 12:13a:

- A. The Father being embodied in the Son—Col. 2:9:
 - 1. Passing through incarnation—John 1:14a; Heb. 2:14a.
 - 2. Experiencing human life—Heb. 2:17-18.
- B. The Son realized as the Spirit—John 14:16-17:
 - 1. The Spirit being the consummated Spirit—John 7:39.
 - 2. The Spirit being the ultimate consummation of the Triune God—Rev. 22:17a:
 - a. Having passed through death and resurrection—1 Cor. 15:3-4.
 - b. Becoming the all-inclusive, life-giving, indwelling, and compound Spirit—1 Cor. 15:45b.
- C. Baptizing all the sanctified and regenerated ones into the Body of Christ—1 Cor. 12:13a:
 - 1. Baptizing the regenerated ones into the Triune God—Matt. 28:19.
 - 2. Making them one with the Triune God to be the Body of Christ—John 17:21a, 23a.

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Message Two

The Elements, Essence, and Reality of the Body of Christ

Scripture Reading: Eph. 4:4-6; John 20:22; Rom. 8:4, 6, 9-11, 13b; Gal. 2:20a; 1 Cor. 1:2a; John 3:5-6, 29; Titus 3:5; Rom. 12:2a; Eph. 4:23; 2 Cor. 3:18; Phil. 3:21; Rom. 8:30; John 17:21a, 23a; 1 Cor. 6:17; 1 Tim. 3:15b-16; John 15:1, 5; John 7:39; Rev. 22:17a; Phil. 1:19; 2 Cor. 4:16; Phil. 3:10a; John 14:17; 15:26; 16:13-15; 1 John 5:6; Rom. 15:16b; 14:17; Eph. 3:16; 1:23

V. The elements of the Body of Christ:

- A. The processed Triune God—the divine element—Eph. 4:4-6:
 - 1. The Triune God passing through incarnation, crucifixion, and resurrection in order to enter into the members of Christ to be the element of the Body of Christ—John 20:22.
 - 2. The Triune God, having entered into the members of Christ, existing and living in the Body of Christ together with the members of Christ—Rom. 8:9-11; Gal. 2:20a.
- B. The tripartite man regenerated by God—the human element—1 Cor. 1:2a:
 - 1. Their spirit being regenerated—John 3:5-6; Titus 3:5.
 - 2. Their soul being renewed and transformed—Rom. 12:2a; Eph. 4:23; 2 Cor. 3:18.
 - 3. Their body being transfigured and glorified—Phil. 3:21; Rom. 8:30.
- C. The Triune God being mingled with the tripartite man—Eph. 4:4-6:
 - 1. The tripartite man becoming one with the Triune God—John 17:21a, 23a.
 - 2. The tripartite man becoming one spirit with the Triune God—1 Cor. 6:17.
- D. Issuing in a hybrid entity of divinity mingled with humanity:
 - 1. The Triune God, who possesses divinity with humanity, being mingled with the tripartite man, who possesses humanity with divinity—Rom. 8:6, 10-11.
 - 2. Divinity begotten in humanity, living in humanity, and expressed in humanity; humanity begotten of divinity, living by divinity, and expressing divinity—1 Tim. 3:15b-16.
 - 3. Issuing in an organism in which God is life to man and man has God as life—John 15:1, 5.

VI. The essence of the Body of Christ:

- A. The Spirit as the essence of the Triune God becoming the essence of the Body of Christ—Eph. 4:4:
 - 1. The Spirit being the ultimate consummation of the processed Triune God—John 7:39; Rev. 22:17a.
 - 2. The Spirit bringing the processed Triune God into the Body of Christ through regeneration—John 3:5-6, 29; Eph. 4:5-6.
 - 3. The Spirit as the processed and consummated God, containing divinity and humanity, the all-inclusive death of Christ, and His surpassing resurrection, becoming not only the element of the Body, but also the essence of the Body—cf. Exo. 30:23-25.

- B. The capacities of the essence of the Body of Christ:
 1. The essence of the Body of Christ, containing the divinity of the Triune God, having the capacity to supply the divine life—Phil. 1:19.
 2. The essence of the Body of Christ, containing the excelling humanity, having the capacity to supply the excelling humanity—2 Cor. 4:16.
 3. The essence of the Body of Christ, containing the all-inclusive death of Christ, having the capacity to put to death the negative things—Rom. 8:13b.
 4. The essence of the Body of Christ, containing the surpassing resurrection of Christ, having the surpassing capacity of resurrection—Phil. 3:10a.

VII. The reality of the Body of Christ:

- A. The reality of the processed Triune God being His consummated Spirit of reality—John 14:17; 15:26; 16:13; 1 John 5:6:
 1. The reality of all that the Triune God is, has, and can do being this Spirit of reality.
 2. The reality of the death and resurrection which the Triune God passed through also being this Spirit of reality.
- B. This Spirit of reality making everything of the processed Triune God a reality in the Body of Christ—John 16:13-15:
 1. All that the processed Triune God is, including righteousness, holiness, life, light, power, grace, and all the divine attributes, being realized by this Spirit of reality to be the attributes of the Body of Christ in reality—Rom. 15:16b; 14:17; Eph. 3:16.
 2. All that the processed Triune God experienced, including incarnation, crucifixion, and resurrection, also being realized by this Spirit of reality to be the experiences of the Body of Christ in reality.

VIII. The essence and reality of the Body of Christ being altogether matters of the Spirit of the processed and consummated Triune God:

- A. This Spirit being the secret to all that the processed Triune God is to the Body of Christ:
 1. The Spirit being the processed Triune God.
 2. The Spirit being the totality of all the attributes of the processed Triune God.
 3. The Spirit also being the effectiveness of all the processes of the processed Triune God.
- B. This Spirit dwelling in our regenerated spirit, being joined as one spirit with our spirit—Rom. 8:9-11a; 1 Cor. 6:17:
 1. We should have our whole being turned to and set on this joined spirit—Rom. 8:6b.
 2. We should also live and walk according to this joined spirit—Rom. 8:4.
 3. When we thus live in this joined spirit, we can live out the Body of Christ to become the corporate expression of Christ—Eph. 1:23.

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Message Three

The Living in the Body of Christ

Scripture Reading: Eph. 5:23; Col. 3:4a, 11b; 1 Cor. 12:12; Eph. 1:23; Phil. 3:14; Eph. 4:4a; 1 John 5:6; Phil. 4:12b; Rom. 15:13; 6:6; 8:13b; Gal. 5:24; Eph. 2:6a; Phil. 3:10a; 1 John 5:11-12; Rom. 9:11b; Gal. 2:16a; Phil. 1:19-21a; Rom. 12:5

IX. Taking Christ as its Head, life, content, principal object, center, and goal:

- A. As its Head, life, and content—Eph. 5:23; Col. 3:4a, 11b:
 - 1. Concerning Christ as the source and element of His Body.
 - 2. Referring to the origin and being of the Body of Christ.
- B. As its principal object, center, and goal—1 Cor. 12:12; Eph. 1:23; Phil. 3:14:
 - 1. Concerning Christ as the meaning and expression of His Body.
 - 2. Referring to the capacity and function of the Body of Christ.

X. Having the Spirit as its essence and reality, and taking the Spirit as its secret and effectiveness:

- A. As its essence and reality—Eph. 4:4a; 1 John 5:6:
 - 1. Concerning the inward nature and the real outward state of the Body of Christ.
 - 2. Referring to the inward being and the outward manifestation of the Body of Christ.
- B. As its secret and effectiveness—Phil. 4:12b; Rom. 15:13:
 - 1. Concerning the skill and ability of the Body of Christ.
 - 2. Referring to the skillfulness and achievements of the Body of Christ.

XI. Taking the crucifixion and resurrection of Christ as its regulation:

- A. Being regulated in the negative aspect by the crucifixion of Christ:
 - 1. Our crucifixion with Christ being an accomplished fact—realized through divine revelation—Rom. 6:6.
 - 2. Our crucifixion with Christ being the day-to-day experience that we that should have—enjoyed through the effectiveness of the Spirit—Rom. 8:13b; Gal. 5:24.
- B. Being regulated in the positive aspect by the resurrection of Christ:
 - 1. Our resurrection with Christ being an accomplished fact—Eph. 2:6a.
 - 2. Our resurrection with Christ being the day-to-day experience that we should have—Phil. 3:10a.

XII. Taking life and the Body as the principle:

- A. Taking life as the principle:
 - 1. Taking the inward life of God, which is just Christ as the embodiment of God, as the principle—1 John 5:11-12.
 - 2. Not taking the outward conduct and morality of man as the principle—Rom. 9:11b; Gal. 2:16a.
- B. Taking the Body as the principle:
 - 1. Every member living Christ out by the Spirit of life—Phil. 1:19-21a.
 - 2. Living corporately and coordinating to live out the Body of Christ to be the fullness of Christ to express Him—Rom. 12:5; Eph. 1:23.

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Message Four

The Service of the Body of Christ

Scripture Reading: Rom. 12:1, 5; 1 Pet. 2:5, 9; Rom. 15:16; Eph. 4:11-12; Acts 2:36; 2 Cor. 4:5a; Acts 13:2; 1:8; Matt. 28:18-19; Acts 4:31b; 1 Cor. 2:4; Acts 6:10; 11:18; Rom. 12:4; 1 Cor. 12:7, 11; John 21:15-17; 1 Cor. 14:1, 3-5, 12, 24, 31; Eph. 4:16; 1 Pet. 2:2; Col. 1:28-29

XIII. Being the service of the New Testament priesthood of the gospel—1 Pet. 2:5, 9:

- A. Being centered on the preaching of the gospel to save sinners and offer them as sacrifices to God—Rom. 15:16.
- B. The goal being to build up the Body of Christ—Eph. 4:11-12.

XIV. Taking Christ as the Lord—Acts 2:36; 2 Cor. 4:5a; Acts 13:2:

- A. According to Christ's heart's desire.
- B. For Christ's purpose.

XV. Taking the Holy Spirit as power and authority—Acts 1:8; Matt. 28:18-19:

- A. Preaching the Word of God by the power of the Spirit—Acts 4:31b; 1 Cor. 2:4; Acts 6:10.
- B. Dispensing life by the Spirit—Acts 11:18.

XVI. Taking the Body as the means—Rom. 12:5:

- A. Every member participating in service—Rom. 12:4; 1 Cor. 12:7, 11.
- B. Being the corporate service of the Body in the coordination of the Body—Rom. 12:5:
 - 1. Preaching the gospel to save sinners—Rom. 15:16.
 - 2. Feeding the Lord's lambs and shepherding the Lord's flock—John 21:15-17.
 - 3. Perfecting the saints to build up the Body of Christ—Eph. 4:11-12.
 - 4. Prophesying, speaking for the Lord, to build up the church—1 Cor. 14:1, 3-5, 12, 24, 31.
- C. The Body building itself up through every joint of the supply and through every functioning member—Eph. 4:16.

XVII. The three steps of offering by the priests of the gospel in the Body:

- A. Leading sinners to salvation and offering them as sacrifices to God—1 Pet. 2:9b, 5b; Rom. 15:16.
- B. Nourishing the believers so that they may grow up and present themselves as living sacrifices to God—1 Pet. 2:2; Rom. 12:1.
- C. Laboring and struggling in all wisdom to present every one of the saints full grown in Christ—Col. 1:28-29.