



Wednesday Word

“Now you are the body of Christ, and each one of you is a part of it.”

Of the many figures of speech Paul used for the church, none has been more captivating to the human mind than the metaphor of the body. Let's see if we can understand this concept.

The church, as the body of Christ, has many members with various functions, but it is still the body of Christ.

The Scriptures are the best illustration of this (1 Cor. 12:12-26). The body has many different parts, such as the hand, head, foot, arm, and eye. Each of these parts has its individual function, but all are important. Each one is dependent to a large degree on the way the other's function.

The Scriptures tell us that various types of work must be done in the church. As members of the church, Christians are endowed by God to perform specific tasks, just like the members of the human body. As members of the church, Christians are to develop their potentiality and use, or their usefulness will diminish. As members of the church, all Christians are to follow the law of cooperation.

The church, as the body of Christ, has one head, which is the unifying factor, and that head is the Lord Jesus Christ.

The church has been defined as the local and voluntary fellowship of baptized believers, bonded together in the Holy Spirit to find, and do the will of Christ, their head. A breakdown of this definition enables one to see the church as a body. Believers find that will through prayer, Bible study, and human experience. The doing of that will is known as Christian service.

The church, then, has Christ as its head and is controlled by him. The church is to hear and obey the divine Word. No one is to argue or deny this truth. No one is to change the gospel of Christ into human philosophy, nor is anyone to surrender the divine truth to errorists.

The church, as the body of Christ, has one major objective – namely, to bring people to Christ for Salvation.

To do this, the church needs to use everything available that is scriptural and right. Lost people cannot be brought to Christ if things are not right. People are brought to Christ through personal work, public preaching, and organizational activities.

To do this, the head of the church must be placed above human desires and petty ideas. An application of this thought is that Christ is to come before some personal feeling or idea. Some people might seek to justify not working in the church because they don't like some other person. But this is not scriptural or practical.

Approach the needs of the church in prayer and see what it is the Lord desires you to do and then do it.

Praise be to God.