

There Is One Body
(Ephesians 4:4-6)

Introduction:

1. Today we are beginning a study of the seven unique subjects listed in Ephesians 4:4-6.
2. In John 8:31-32 Jesus revealed some important principles that we must keep in mind as we study these subjects.
 - a. He showed what we must do to be His true disciples and what we must do to know the truth -- "continue in His Word."
 - b. He also showed why we must know the truth -- it makes us free.
3. This morning we are focusing our attention on the fact that "there is one body" (Ephesians 4:4).
4. In our lesson we will see that the Lord's Word identifies:
 - a. the "*one body*" as the Lord's church
 - b. Christ as the head of the "*one body*"
 - c. the members of the "*one body*."

Discussion:

- I. ACCORDING TO THE LORD'S WORD, THE "*ONE BODY*" IS THE LORD'S CHURCH
 - A. See Ephesians 1:22-23
 1. The Lord's Word states that there is "*one body*."
 2. The Lord's Word states that the "*one body*" is the church.
 3. Since there is only "*one body*" and that body is the church, according to the Lord's Word, there is only one church.
 4. The Lord never intended for many churches to exist (Matthew 16:18).
 - B. It is only in the "*one body*" that we are reconciled to God (Ephesians 2:14-16).
- II. ACCORDING TO THE LORD'S WORD, CHRIST IS THE HEAD OF THE "*ONE BODY*"
 - A. See Colossians 1:18
 - B. We learn from Ephesians 5:23-27 that the Lord has a special relationship with His body.
 - C. To be the Lord's "*one body*" we must submit to His will (Colossians 3:17).
- III. ACCORDING TO THE LORD'S WORD, CHRISTIANS ARE THE MEMBERS OF THE "*ONE BODY*"
 - A. See Ephesians 5:30; Romans 12:4-5; 1 Corinthians 12:12-14, 27.
 - B. These passages show us that Christians are the members of the "*one body*."
 1. To be more specific, the "*one body*" is composed of those who have been baptized into it (1 Corinthians 12:13).
 2. This harmonizes perfectly with Acts 2:38, 41, 47.
 3. By the way, how many baptisms are there? (see Ephesians 4:5)
 4. A baptism that puts a person into a church that we do not read about in the Bible is not the baptism commanded by Christ.
 - C. Members of the "*one body*" have responsibilities.
 1. (1 Corinthians 12:25) There is to be no "schism" [division] in the body.
 2. (Ephesians 4:16) Each member is to contribute his/her part to the edifying of the body.
 3. (Colossians 3:15) Members of the body are to be thankful.

Conclusion:

1. The "*one body*" [the church] is so precious that Jesus gave Himself for it, and He purchased it with His blood (Acts 20:28).
2. The Lord wants us to be faithful, active, and dedicated members of His body.
3. Are you a member of the Lord's "*one body*?"
4. If you are, does the Lord see you as being faithful, active, and dedicated?