

There Is One Body

Introduction:

1. An important admonition is given in Ephesians 4:3 -- we are to endeavor "*to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.*"
2. To accomplish this we must:
 - a. practice the instructions given in vs.1-2
 - b. believe and teach the truth concerning the 7 subjects listed in vs.4-6.
3. We are beginning a study of the 7 unique subjects listed in Ephesians 4:4-6.
4. As we study these subjects we must remember the principles Jesus gave in John 8:31-32.
 - a. We must continue in the Lord's Word to be His true disciples.
 - b. Continuing in the Lord's Word will enable us to know the truth.
 - c. Knowing the truth is imperative because it is the truth that makes us free.
5. In this lesson we are concentrating on the "*one body*" mentioned in vs.4.
 - a. The Lord's Word identifies the "*one body*" as the Lord's church.
 - b. The Lord's Word identifies Christ as the head of the "*one body*."
 - c. The Lord's Word identifies the members of the "*one body*."

Discussion:

- I. THE LORD'S WORD IDENTIFIES THE "ONE BODY" AS THE LORD'S CHURCH
 - A. In Matthew 16:18 Jesus said He would build His church.
 - B. In Ephesians 1:22-23 the Lord's church is identified as His body.
 - C. It is in the "*one body*" that we are reconciled to God (Ephesians 2:14-16).
- II. THE LORD'S WORD IDENTIFIES CHRIST AS THE HEAD OF THE "ONE BODY"
 - A. This point is made very clearly in Ephesians 1:22-23 and Colossians 1:18.
 - B. According to Ephesians 5:23-27, the Lord has a special relationship with His body.
 - C. To be the Lord's body we must submit to His will.
- III. THE LORD'S WORD IDENTIFIES THE MEMBERS OF THE "ONE BODY"
 - A. Christians are identified as members of the Lord's body in Ephesians 5:30; Romans 12:4-5; and 1 Corinthians 12:12-14, 27.
 - B. According to 1 Corinthians 12:13, the "*one body*" is composed of those who have been baptized into it [this harmonizes perfectly with Acts 2:38, 41, 47].
 - 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.