

There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called to one hope when you were called; one Lord, one faith, one baptism; one God and Father of all, who is over all and through all and in all.

Ephesians 4:4-6



Our "theme" this year is becoming a better follower

Becoming better follower means we move closer to God

It also means we move closer together

Oneness: The fact or state of being unified or whole, though comprised of two or more parts.

From the group view the desire is to show how the church is to become one

$$**1 + 1 + 1 + 1 + 1 + 1 + 1 = 1**$$

Be completely humble and gentle, be patient, bearing with one another in love, make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace.

As we explore each of these Ones, we are going to come face to face with what we believe are core doctrines of the church

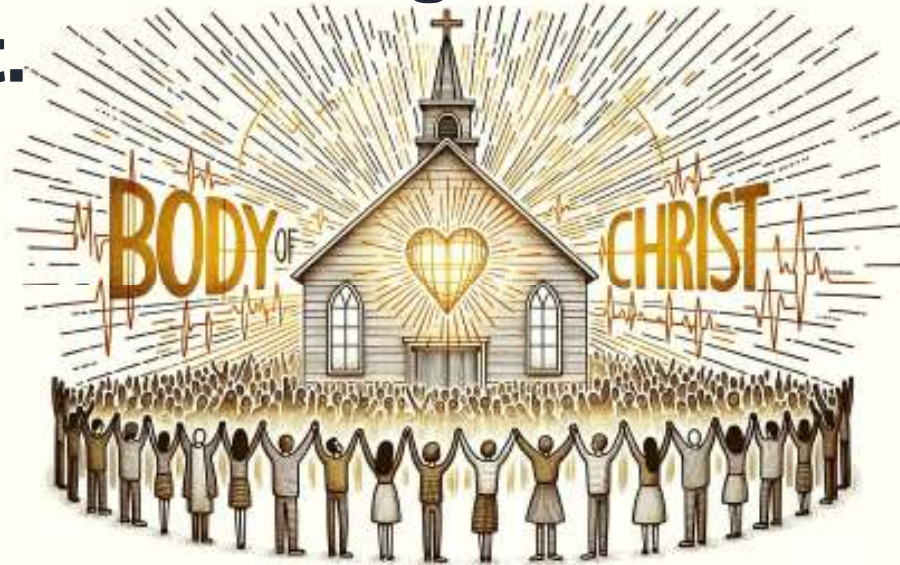
The phrase “the Body of Christ” is a common New Testament metaphor for the Church

What is Church Membership?

Just as a body, though one, has many parts, but all its many parts form one body, so it is with Christ. For we were all baptized by one Spirit so as to form one body—whether Jews or Gentiles, slave or free—and we were all given the one Spirit to drink. Even so the body is not made up of one part but of many.

1 Corinthians 12:12-14

It's any individual that has chosen to identify themselves as a follower of Christ and in so doing received the Holy spirit.



What is the function of the one body?

Bodily Functions

Instead, speaking the truth in love, we will grow to become in every respect the mature body of him who is the head, that is, Christ. From him the whole body, joined and held together by every supporting ligament, grows and builds itself up in love, as each part does its work.

Ephesians 4:15-16

*The Body is designed to
Speak the truth in love*

***But in your hearts revere Christ as Lord.
Always be prepared to give an answer to
everyone who asks you to give the reason for the
hope that you have. But do this with gentleness
and respect***

1 Peter 3:15

*The primary function of
the body is to speak*

Now this is not the only bodily function, but the thing is all the others should couple up to this one

But before we move on, please see Paul uses the words in love and Peter says **gentleness and **respect****

Shaming people is not going to do it

Lecturing people is not going to do it

The Body is to grow to be more like Christ

The god of this age has blinded the minds of unbelievers, so that they cannot see the light of the gospel that displays the glory of Christ, who is the image of God. For what we preach is not ourselves, but Jesus Christ as Lord, and ourselves as your servants for Jesus' sake. For God, who said, "Let light shine out of darkness," made his light shine in our hearts to give us the light of the knowledge of God's glory displayed in the face of Christ.

2 Corinthians 4:3-6

The Body is to grow to be more like Christ

**We need to remember people are not just going
to see Jesus, Paul says they have been *blinded***

**Thus, for them to see Jesus,
they *first must see him in us***

**Therefore, we as a body are to *help each other
mature to live more Christ like* so that when we
share the gospel *people will see Jesus***

**Light in
Darkness**

*The Body is to be joined
together and supportive*

**Finally, brothers and sisters, rejoice!
Strive for full restoration, encourage one
another, be of one mind, live in peace. And
the God of love and peace will be with you.**

2 Corinthians 13:11

The Body is to be joined together and supportive

- The idea is in this body we are to support each other**
- Paul uses the word encourage**
- Each part works to support another**
- When parts are damaged and in pain the body responds swiftly**
- The goal is to heal (restoration)**
- Works hard to ensure infection does not spread**



*The Body not only grows, but
it also builds itself up in love*

**What is the difference, growth is organic,
building is systematic**

We want growth, but we don't want you to grow wild

**Therefore, it is the responsibility of the body to guide
your growth by building you up (*Ephesians 4:11-13*)**

The key word there is *equip*

The Body parts are designed to work together

Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God's grace in its various forms. If anyone speaks, they should do so as one who speaks the very words of God. If anyone serves, they should do so with the strength God provides, so that in all things God may be praised through Jesus Christ. To him be the glory and the power for ever and ever.

1 Peter 4:10-11

The Body parts are designed to work together

**Serving is about using what God gave to you
(*Stewardship*)**

Different people serve in different ways

Serving is about others

**True serving always results in
praising God**

Serving and speaking go hand in hand





*What happens when the
Body sees itself as one?*