

## THE ONE BODY

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Study Eph. 1:22-23 with 2:22 and 2 Co. 6:16. Do they teach that whatever is needed, spiritually, in the world in all its dispensations, is to be found in the church? Do they teach that our own needs are likewise supplied? See Col. 2:10. Must we each be duplicates of Jesus?

### Lesson 1. Membership.

Study Ro. 12, 1 Co. 12, Eph. 4, Col. 1:18-24.

Is joining the church a scriptural idea? See your concordance. Also Ac. 2:47 and 5:14. Meditate on the human body as a figure of the church: How the members get in it, if they "join" it, the spirit that gives the two bodies life, the prompting desire for new material, suitable new material, assimilation or transformation of material, use of the body. Does Ps. 139:13-16 apply to both bodies? Study the relation of 1 Co. 12:18, Jno. 6:37-40, 44-45, Ac. 16:14 and 2 Thess. 2:13-14. Is the material for both bodies active or passive when being made members? Does food retain its life after being eaten? See Ro. 7:9. Suppose a divorced and re-married person requests baptism of you? A drunkard or tobacco user? Are "sins of ignorance" forgiven with the rest.

Gal. 3:26-29, with Romans 6:3-4, show why we cannot "join the church". Verse 3 shows us as material being transformed, and verse 4 shows us as members. After baptism are we in the real body? Notice the two essentials of the law of growth in Eph. 4:15. Does 1 Co. 12:13 show the "one baptism", "one body and one spirit" of Eph. 4? Does division into denominations violate this unity? 1 Cor. 1:13; Gal. 5:20; 1 Cor. 1:10; 11:19. Relation of John 17:20-23 to Eph. 4:13.

Meaning of Christ as "head" of the body.

### Lesson 2, "Office" of Members.

Study Ro. 12:4-8; 1 Co. 12:12-17; 7:7,17. Compare the method of placing materials as members in the two bodies. What does it? Does the spirit now operate so, as given in 1 Co. 12:1-11? Woman's position in the church. Her "silence in the churches." Your "office". Your "authority". Jesus' proof of his authority. Does our authority come from the church? If so, how prove our baptism valid? Discuss election of the church officials. Is an election visible? 1 Co. 6:4; 16:1-4, and 2 Co. 8:19? Ac. 6:3; 14:23 and Titus 1:5. Do 1 P. 5:5-7; Ro. 12:16 to 18; 15:5-7; Phil. 2:116, 3:16; 1 Co. 1:10-11; 1 P. 3:8 and 2 Co. 13:11, apply to such choosing? Consider the safety of majority vote. "Church letters", Ac. 18:27; 28:21; 1 Co. 16:3. Election, ordination and licenses of preachers. Authority to baptize, perform marriages, etc. Are Matt. 28:19-20, Gal. 6:6 and Jno. 17:18-23 to us? Study the idea of authority found in Acts 15:24 and 2 P. 3:2. See the preference of office given in 1 Co. 12:28 and Eph. 4:11. Under which class in 1 Co. 12:28 would deacons come? Elders? Through what "office" does the head today express his desires? Does the holy spirit today appoint elders as stated in Acts 20:28? By Titus 1, elders are teachers: Can you therefore discern the authority of the spirit today? Does the succession begun in Titus 1:5 reach us? What if it be broken? Compare Eph. 4:12 with 2 Co. 10:8 and 13:10. By these texts is there anything in the conduct of Diotrephes, 3 John 5-10, to disprove his authority? See also

1 P. 5:1-4. Suppose one desires to be elder till death as an honorable heritage to his family? What motive should prompt one to seek such office?

Read the qualifications of leaders in 1 Tim. 3:1-15 and Titus 1. Would tobacco unfit a person? Does spiritual nearness to God determine official nearness and authority? Which would you prefer, authority or influence? If the members denied your authority and defied you, how would you use it?

In Acts 15:4; 20:17 and 1 P. 5:1 a plurality of elders in one congregation is visible: Explain.

Do Heb. 13:7,17; 1 Th. 5:12-13; Phil. 2:29; 1 Tim. 5:17-18 and 3 Jno. 8, destroy the equality of members shown in 1 P. 5:5; Ro. 12:10; Eph. 5:21 and Phil. 2:3?

Why obey these officers? Is there a parallel between them and what is said of civil officers in Ro. 13:12? Is there danger of priestcraft in such obedience? What if they command you to steal or lie?

#### Lesson 3. Service.

Study Luke 4:16-21; Acts 13:1-5; 14:16; 2 Tim. 2:14-26; Titus 1:13-14; 3:8-9.

I. Individual. How fulfil Col. 3:17 and 1 Co. 10:31? By Ro. 15:2? Compare 1 Co. 14:2 and 4. How show love for God?

Is any member of your body useless? See Eph. 4:16.

II. Assembled. Study Col. 3:16; 1 Co. 14; 1 Tim. 1:4; 1 Tim. 4; 1 Tim. 6:3-6.

What is worship? Benefit of it? What are Psalms? Why written?

Give scripture for (a) preaching to an audience, (b) singing in public worship, (c) organ, (d) choir, (e) public prayer, (f) teaching a class, (g) Sunday School, (h) Children's Day, (i) participating in services at other churches, such as song or prayer, (j) not singing error.

Are teaching, preaching and baptizing confined in scripture to a priestly class? See John 4:1-2; Ac. 18:24-26; Ro. 15:14; 1 Co. 14:31; 1 Th. 5:11, 1 Tim. 3:15.

Should our services be made so nearly exclusively of preaching?

Is it scripturally permissible to interrupt a speaker?

Study Acts 15 carefully on church conferences. Find in it regarding (a) purpose of conferences, (b) of whom consisting, (c) manner of assembling, (d) president, (See Gal. 2:6,9), (e) secretary, (f) delegates, (See 1 Co. 16:2) (g) reports from churches, (h) division of field of labor (into states?) (See v. 36 and Gal. 2:9) (i) appointment of evangelists and pastors, 40-41 (by conferences?) (j) creed and (k) majority vote, vs. 22, 25. Suppose all the members of your body except the head should vote against the hands and say they should walk?

Why was this conference held in Jerusalem? In relation to v. 2 see 8:1. Is the superior authority that of locality or office? Apply this thought to Catholicism. Have we such a preference of place or persons? Who are our supreme officers? Note again 1 Cor. 12:28 and Eph. 4:11. Relate supremacy and service. What guidance had they? Acts 15:28. Have we such?

Was their written declaration of faith entire or partial? Why?

Suppose an elder is stubborn or quick-tempered: Give the scripture proof whether he is or not, qualified to be in such a conference. Does the same apply to preachers? Why is such a provision wise?

Suppose an elder, or other leader, who is unsound in doctrine or otherwise, presents himself for admittance to such a conference: Apply the proof to his case. Were both sides to the contention causing this conference represented? Study vs.

4-6 carefully. Can you see a reason for this in "the unity of the spirit" shown in this conference? By Eph. 4:3,13, show how we can have unity of spirit and the spirit's guidance. What of their possible contention that they were judged without a hearing? By comparing v. 12 with Ac. 13:1, can you show that all those named in 1 Co. 12:28 and Eph. 4:11 are authorized to participate in such conference?

Show whether messengers of the gospel are sent to certain places by the church, or go as they see best, vs. 36-41; 9:32; Ro. 15:15-25; 1 Co. 4:17.

In Ac. 15:3 you find the expression "brought on their way": In this connection see Acts 17:15; 21:5; Ro. 15:24; 16:1-4,9; 1 Co. 16:6, 15-18.

Does a higher place of authority require a higher standard of Christian life? 1 K. 5:3; 1 Co. 4:15-16; 11:1; Phil. 3:17,20; 2 Th. 3:7-9; 1 Th. 1:6.

#### Lesson 4, Fellowship.

Study Eph. 5: 7-14; 1 Co. 10:14-22; 2 Co. 6:14 to 7:1, 1 J. 1:3-7.

Three kinds of fellowship:

1. In suffering, Phil. 1:3-7; 3:10; 2 Co. 8:1-5. Bring scriptures teaching sympathy. The nature of our Savior as a basis of his sympathy and strength for us in (a) affliction, (b) temptation. Vicarious atonement.

2. Financial fellowship, Phil. 4: 10-19. Tithing. Charity work. Read 2 Co. 9, (especially v. 8) Phil. 4:19 and Prov. 11:24-28: From these, do you think there is danger of making ourselves poor by giving? Lodges and insurance. Explain 1 Tim. 5:8. ("His own" what? Family? How "denied the faith?") Collections, "Ladies' aid", church fairs, socials and suppers. The minister's salary, Communism.

The standard of Christian occupa-

tions, Titus 3:14, (See margin.) Eph. 4:28. What about being an agent: Raising tobacco?

According to 2 Co. 8:13-15, what should the brethren spoken of in Jas. 2:1-4 have done??

Is building a "union church" having fellowship in finance?

3. Fellowship in the gospel, or membership in common in the body, the church.

Study Ro. 12:5; Eph. 4:25; Acts 2:41-47; Gal. 2:9; Eph. 5:7; 2 Th. 3:14-15; 1 Tim. 6:3-5; 2 Tim. 3:10; Titus 3:9-10; 2 Jno. 9-11.

Give a reason why the above reference in 2 Tim. is to us, and could not be obeyed by him. Are the evil men spoken of religious?

Must we demand that a member be faultless in doctrine and conduct from baptism, before we continue in his fellowship? Eph. 4:11-16. Show the parallel in the human body. We are commanded to disfellowship members in certain cases: Then show where to make the distinction. Does "a good conscience" have anything to do in it? Do you see an objection in this line of thought to measuring members for fellowship by a written statement of faith and discipline as a standard?

1. Matt. 18 gives the procedure in personal grievances. Study the whole chapter carefully. Discuss the propriety of our being in lawsuits. Shall I forgive you before you ask me? Suppose one who thinks I have wronged him refuses to take the first of the three steps of Matt. 18: Is there any instruction for me to start the process? Suppose he stops at the end of the first or second step: Is there any way to bring the trouble to a final settlement? Study Phil. 4:2, Philemon and 1 Co. 5:4.

Suppose the church render a wrong decision against you in the 3rd step: Have you any recourse?

Does Lu. 18:1-8 bear on this?

Why when "gathered together"? 1 Co. 5, 2 Co. 2:6.

How few may do this, according to Matt. 18:19-20? What qualification must they have to fit them for this? Meaning of "in my name?" Ac. 9:27,29 with 20-22. In this connection study 1 Co. 5:4. Must the accused be present, lest he be judged without a hearing?

Does Gal. 6:1-2 show an equivalent to being gathered in his name?

Suppose you start out equipped as instructed in Gal. 6:1-2 and 1 Tim. 5:1 and endeavor to fulfill Titus 2:15; 2 Tim. 4:2; 1 Thess. 5:11,14 and 1 Tim. 5:19-21, and some one quotes Matt. 7:1-5 to you and tells not to be "a busybody in other men's matters"? Suppose you are told you are too young to be correcting others? How can you harmonize 1 Co. 5:12-13 with Matt. 7:1; Ro. 12:1 and 1 Co. 4:1-8? What difference between individual and collective judgment? What does "judgment" mean? Suppose I try to inflict some penalty on my brother for a grievance? Suppose I inflict it on criminals by my vote? What is turning one over to Satan. 1 Co. 5:5? Who judges him? See Rev. 2:16, 22-23. What ultimately became of the man spoken of in 1 Co. 5? Suppose someone quotes the parable of the tares to you to discourage following 1 Co. 5? Suppose he tells you to clean up your own dooryard first, or that you are to be perfect before reproving him? Or that he would not do so to you, and therefore "the golden rule" requires you to let him alone?

Can we put people out of the church? See 2 Thess. 3:15.

Suppose members dislike what you preach, and refuse to attend or pay in money? Are they practicing disfellowship? Suppose one is covetous and will not share in church

expenses? What if one stays away because the service is "dry" or lengthy? From 1 Tim. 5:8 and Heb. 10:19-29 do you conclude it is proper to refuse fellowship to one who will not attend services?

II. The procedure in disfellowship over doctrine. Ro. 16:17-18; 1 Tim. 1:20; Titus 3:9-11. Who is to do this? How? Does Acts 15 have any place in this? Why be so particular about doctrine? If a preacher becomes doctrinally out of harmony with his congregation should he resign? If he refuse should they cut off his salary?

#### Lesson 5, Ordinances.

Baptism, Sabbath, Feet-washing, Holy Kiss, Head covering, Dress forms.

"The Lord's Supper".

(a) Time. (Yearly or weekly? Day or night?) (b) Special meeting for it? Acts 20:9; 1 Co. 11:20. (c) Order. (1) Bread blessed, broken. Unleavened. One loaf, 1 Co. 10. (2) Wine. Significance of the above order. Why wine for blood? Study John 15. "The new covenant". Should there be sugar in the wine? Suppose it is made of jelly? Would cider do? Fermented wine? Should deacons pass the bread and wine, or all sit at table? The vacant chair. Remaining portions of bread and wine. The worthiness and unworthiness spoken of in 1 Co. 11. Must I be holy before I am "worthy" to eat?

How does it show fellowship or suffering?

Does John 6 teach that we cannot be saved except we eat the communion? What does "communion" mean? Is eating the communion a symbol of fellowship? Discuss "close communion." Should a brother stay away or refuse to eat with another? Did Judas eat? Does eating with one who is wrong in creed or conduct endorse either? Study the parable in the human body.