

One Body - continued

and might reconcile them both in one body unto God through the cross, having slain the enmity thereby:

Here, we learn that the “one body” relationship is accomplished when different people are brought together in Christ and submit to the other “ones” listed in Ephesians 4:4-6. The “one body” relationship is hindered when brethren do not submit to this set of unified doctrinal truths (Ephesians 4:14).

“One Body” at Colossae

Paul wrote about the “one body” in Colossians 3:15:

And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to the which also ye were called in one body; and be ye thankful.

Here, we learn that the “one body” relationship is accomplished by being “called in one body” through the gospel (1 Thessalonians 2:13). This “one body” relationship can be hindered when brethren lack peace and the godly qualities listed in Colossians 3:12-17.

Friend, give up sin and division and come be a part of the “one body” of Christ today! - *Chris Reeves*

Sentence Sermons

- You are never what you ought to be until you are doing what you ought to do.
- It is better to live for Christ now than to later wish you had.
- Be like a kite and rise against the winds of opposition.
- Truth angers those whom it does not truly convince.

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For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war according to the flesh, for the weapons of our warfare are not of the flesh, but divinely powerful for the destruction of fortresses.
- 2 Corinthians 10:3-4 -

How can Christians today practice 1st-century unity and avoid 21st-century division? This is a good question and worthy of our consideration. The Lord wants us to be unified in his “one body”. Is this actually possible, or is it only an unreasonable dream? I believe it is possible and I want to show you how it can be done.

One Body

Many religions today, including some in the “Restoration Movement” (or Churches of Christ), promote a “one body” philosophy, but not according to the New Testament. They promote a gospel-doctrine distinction; they teach a Christ-church distinction; and, they offer a man-plan distinction. When they make these arbitrary distinctions, it allows them to be united and divided with others at the same time.

Some people also practice a “unity in diversity approach” to religion. They say, “let’s agree to disagree” and “let’s agree on the core gospel, but disagree on doctrine.”

This, however, is not the unity we read about in the New Testament. Paul wrote about the “one body” in differ-

ent places and he gives us the New Testament plan for true unity among Christians.

“One Body” at Rome

Paul wrote about the “one body” in Romans 12:4-5:

For even as we have many members in one body, and all the members have not the same office: so we, who are many, are one body in Christ, and severally members one of another.

Here, we learn that the “one body” relationship is accomplished when all Christians function together as members of one body. The “one body” relationship is hindered when some members think they are better than others (Romans 12:3,16).

“One Body” at Corinth

Paul wrote about the “one body” in 1 Corinthians 10:16-17:

The cup of blessing which we bless, is it not a communion of the blood of Christ?

The bread which we break, is it not a communion of the body of Christ? seeing that we, who are many, are one bread, one body: for we all partake of the one bread.

Here, we learn that the “one body”

relationship is accomplished when Christians partake of the Lord’s supper while assembled together (1 Corinthians 11:33). The “one body” relationship is hindered when brethren give their devotion to sinful things (idolatry) and provoke the Lord to jealousy (1 Corinthians 10:15,18-22).

Paul wrote about the “one body” in 1 Corinthians 12:12-13:

For as the body is one, and hath many members, and all the members of the body, being many, are one body; so also is Christ. For in one Spirit were we all baptized into one body, whether Jews or Greeks, whether bond or free; and were all made to drink of one Spirit.

Here, we learn that the “one body” relationship (see also verse 20) is accomplished when people are baptized into the one body of Christ (Acts 2:28; Romans 6:3-4; Galatians 3:27). The “one body” relationship is hindered when brethren do not want to work together with other members in love (1 Corinthians 12:14-31).

“One Body” at Ephesus

Paul wrote about the “one body” in Ephesians 2:16: - *continued*