

THE CHURCH

5. The Church Is Like A Body – Part 1



Introduction

We have looked at three different pictures used in the Word of God, to help us understand more about the church. So far we have seen that the church is like a building, a family and a bride. The illustration that is used most in the New Testament is that of a human body, with Jesus being the head of the body and you and I being the members of the body.

Scripture Reading: Ephesians 1:22-23, 4:12-16

A. JESUS IS HEAD OF THE BODY

Let's begin by looking at Jesus, who is called the Head of the body. We are told in these verses in Ephesians that God appointed Jesus to be head over the church, which is his body. What can we learn from this picture of Jesus as the head?

A. He has the most important position

Our head is on top of our bodies and holds the most important position! Jesus has the most important position in the church. Look what it says in Colossians 1:18, 'He is the head of the body, the church ... so that in everything he might have the supremacy.' When we gather as believers our desire should be to lift Jesus up and make him our focus.

B. He directs and controls the body

Our head directs and controls our bodies. The brain sends messages through the nerves to tell the different parts of the body what to do. In the same way Jesus should direct and control the church in all that it does. Read Ephesians 4:16, Colossians 2:19.

Sometimes a person is paralyzed from a stroke or an accident. Although their brain is working, the messages from the brain are not getting through to the body, and parts of the body can't function properly. It is very sad to see someone like this. The same is true in the body of Christ. If church members are not listening to Jesus, then it won't function as it should. We need to choose leaders who are godly and listen to the Lord.

This is also true in our own lives. Jesus is our head, and he wants to direct and control our lives. He has a purpose for each of us in the body. In 1 Corinthians 12:27 we read, 'Now you are the body of Christ, and each one of you is a part of it.' Let's make sure we learn how to hear the voice of Jesus, so we can fulfil our part in the body.

B. THE CHURCH IS THE BODY

It tells us in Ephesians 1:23 that the church is Christ's body. What do you think is the most important – your head or your body? They need each other! The head needs the body and the body needs the head, and this is true of Jesus and the church.

A. The church expresses the desires of the head on earth

A head without a body cannot do anything! What does our body do? It does what our head tells us to. The brain sends messages from the head to all parts of the body, so it will do what it wants it to. If you think you would like to go to the shops, then the brain sends messages to the legs to get moving. This is what the church is to do. We are to express the will and purposes of Jesus here on earth.

Jesus was only here on earth for a short time, and when he left he told his disciples that he had done all God wanted him to, and now he was sending them to complete his work. We represent Jesus here on earth, and through his power, we are to share the message of the Kingdom of God to the world. Read John 17:18.

B. The church is to grow into the fullness of the head

When the Jesus, the head, is in control of our lives, we will grow in the way God wants us to. Read Ephesians 4:13-16 again. Sometimes you may see a child who has never grown up. There is something wrong with their bodies, which is really sad. Don't you think God feels sad when his children don't grow up, and remain immature? God's desire is that we grow up and become more and more like Jesus. This is what it means in verse 13: 'We shall become mature people, reaching to the very height of Christ's full stature.' Are you growing?

Conclusion

Let's desire to grow up, so we learn to overcome discouragement, temptations and doubts, and grow in the knowledge of Jesus. This is God's purpose for all of us, whether we are a Pastor, church leader, or just a member. We are told that the 'whole body grows'. When we allow Jesus, who is the head, to be in control of our lives, and listen to him, then we will grow up and fulfil God's plan for our lives. There is nothing more fulfilling than that!