

## ONE BODY ?

This message will be about our **one-ness**  
.... with Christ .... and with each other.

We will read the KJV verses, and not force them into a paradine or a chart.

Paul **connects** this issue of **one-ness to the resurrection** ....  
.... both Christ's .... and ours.

We have a wondrous **union** with Christ:

1 Cor 6:14-17 And God hath **both** raised up the Lord,  
and will also raise up us by his own power.

15 Know ye not that **your bodies are the members of Christ?**  
shall I then take the members of Christ,  
and make them the members of an harlot? God forbid.

16 What? know ye not that **he which is joined** (Greek word <kollao> is  
also used like to cleave or to keep company with) to an harlot is **one body?**  
for two, saith he, shall be **one flesh.**

17 But **he that is joined** <kollao> **unto the Lord** is **one spirit.**

Again, our **one-ness** .... our **union** with Christ .... **is linked** into **His resurrection body** that had **flesh** and **bones**. Compare these 2 verses:

Eph 5:30-32 For we are members of his body,  
of his **flesh**, and of his **bones**.

**Christ's resurrection body .... had flesh and bones:**

Luke 24:39 Behold my hands and my feet, that it is I myself: handle me,  
and see; for **a spirit hath not flesh and bones, as ye see me have.**

**We will have a body like His .... at our resurrection:**

Phil 3:20-21 For our **conversation** (Greek word <politeuma> is the ad-  
ministration of civil affairs like a commonwealth of citizens.) is in heaven;  
(We believers are now ruled by heaven's principals -- not this world's -- not  
our flesh.) from whence also we look for the Saviour, the Lord Jesus Christ:  
21 Who shall **change our vile body, that it may be fashioned like  
unto his glorious body**, according to the working whereby he is able even  
to subdue all things unto himself.

Paul wrote that our **one-ness** with Christ, this marvelous truth,  
**is a mystery ....**

comparing a physical union (we call '**holy** matrimony' .... or marriage)  
 to the spiritual union .... of believers being made one with Christ:

**Eph 5:30-32** For **we are members of his body,**  
 of his flesh, and of his bones.

31 For this cause shall a man leave his father and mother, and **shall be joined** <proskollao> unto his wife, and they two shall be **one flesh.**

32 This is a great **mystery:**  
 but I speak concerning **Christ and the church.**

The Hebrew saints were taught **this same principal ....**

**of Christ and the church being one:**

**Heb 2:8-12** Thou hast put all things in subjection under his feet.  
 For in that he put all in subjection under him, he left nothing that is not put  
 under him. **But now we see not yet all things put under him.**

(But they will be .... **in His day .... when He comes ....**  
**in the day when believers will be resurrected ....**  
 see Phil 3:21, 1 Cor 15:20-28, Eph 1:18-23.)

9 But we see Jesus, who was made a little lower than the angels  
 for the suffering of death, crowned with glory and honour;  
 that he by **the grace of God** should taste death **for every man.**

10 For it became him, for whom are all things, and by whom are all  
 things, (ref Col 1:16-20) in **bringing many sons unto glory,** (at the res-  
 urrection) to make the captain of their salvation perfect through sufferings.

11 For **both he that sanctifieth**  
**and they who are sanctified are all of one:**

**for which cause** he is not ashamed to call them **brethren,**

12 Saying, I will declare thy name unto **my brethren,**  
 in the midst of **the church** will I sing praise unto thee.

We have been guilty of **dividing things** that the scriptures show **united:**

**1 Cor 6:11** And such were some of you: but ye are washed,  
 but **ye are sanctified,** but ye are justified in the name of the Lord Jesus,  
 and by the Spirit of our God.

We have been guilty of **making things different** that the scriptures **don't**.

Jesus began praying to His Father in heaven in **John 17:1**.

In verse 6, He identified His prayer was for

"the men which thou gavest me out of the world:"

Jesus prayed for them to **be one**:

**John 17:11** And now I am no more in the world, but these are in the world, and I come to thee. Holy Father, keep through thine own name those whom thou hast given me, that **they may be one**, as we are.

They were **sanctified** through **God's word of truth** (2 Tim 2:15):

**John 17:17-23** Sanctify them through thy truth: thy word is truth.  
 18 As thou hast sent me into the world, even so have I also sent them into the world.  
 19 And for their sakes I sanctify myself, that they also might be **sanctified through the truth**.

Jesus **expanded** His prayer to **include other believers** in the **one-ness**:

20 Neither pray I for these alone,  
 but for **them also which shall believe on me** through their word;  
 21 **That they all may be one**;  
 as thou, Father, art in me, and I in thee,  
 that **they also may be one in us**:  
 that **the world may believe** that thou hast sent me.  
 22 And the glory which thou gavest me I have given them;  
**that they may be one**, even as we are one:  
 23 **I in them**, and thou in me,  
 that they may be made **perfect in one**; and that **the world may know** that thou hast sent me, and hast loved them, as thou hast loved me.

You may be thinking, "Hey, wait a minute! You can't do that! You can't mix the Prophecy Program with the Mystery Program!"

Well, I don't have an agenda to defend! I just pointed out KJV verses that say similar things. You discard, ignore, or separate them if you want to. Sort of like some did with the office of a **bishop** (1 Tim 3:1, Phil 1:1).

Paul recalled his testimony before king Agrippa .... that happened

when he was **Saul** of Tarsus:

**Acts 26:14-18** And when we were all fallen to the earth, I heard a voice speaking unto me, and saying in the Hebrew tongue, **Saul, Saul, why persecutest thou me?** it is hard for thee to kick against the pricks.

Yikes! It was **Jesus .... the 'SAME Jesus'** he was persecuting .... **not directly**, because Jesus was risen and glorified in heaven then ....

**but indirectly**, by persecuting people who had faith in Him:

**Matt 25:40** And the King shall answer and say unto them, Verily I say unto you, **Inasmuch as ye have done it unto one of the least of these my brethren, ye have done it unto me.**

(Now go back to finish reading at Acts 26:15-18):

15 And I said, Who art thou, Lord?

And he said, **I am Jesus whom thou persecutest.**

Jesus commissioned Saul and sent him to the Gentiles, so **they (Gentiles)** could be forgiven and have inheritance -- get this -- **AMONG** those people who had **already believed in Christ** that Saul had been persecuting:

16 But rise, and stand upon thy feet: for I have appeared unto thee for this purpose, to make thee a minister and a witness both of these things which thou hast seen, and of those things in the which I will appear unto thee;

17 Delivering thee from the people,

and from **the Gentiles, unto whom now I send thee,**

18 To open **their** eyes, and to turn **them** from darkness to light, and from the power of Satan unto God, that **they** may receive **forgiveness** of sins, and **inheritance among them which are sanctified by faith that is in me.** (Who do you think 'them' was .... before Saul even got started .... that the Gentiles would be getting forgiveness and inheritance 'among'?)

Saul was separated for the work the Holy Ghost called him to (Acts 13:1-3) and his name was changed to Paul (Acts 13:9).

He **blinded a Jew** that was trying to **prevent a Gentile**

from hearing the word of God (Acts 13:6-12) ....

the Gentiles, who never had **a designated apostle** before (Rom 15:20,21) could be **sanctified by faith in Christ** and get in on, what previously had been, **only Israel's inheritance:**

**Rom 15:15-16** Nevertheless, brethren, I have written the more boldly unto you in some sort, as putting you in mind, **because of the grace that is given to me of God,**

16 That I should be the minister of Jesus Christ to the Gentiles, ministering the gospel of God, **that the offering up of the Gentiles might be acceptable, being sanctified by the Holy Ghost.**

Just like the Jew that Paul blinded in Acts 13 for trying to turn a Gentile away from the faith .... Paul knew the same abuse .... had happened at Thessalonica .... and in Judaea:

**1 Thess 2:14-16** For ye, brethren, became followers of the churches of God which in Judaea are **in Christ Jesus:** (Who do you think those people were? They were the churches who were **in Christ before** the Thessalonian saints came to believe **in Christ.**)

for **ye also** have suffered like things of your own countrymen, **even as they** have of the Jews:

15 Who **both** killed the Lord Jesus, and their own prophets, and have **persecuted** us; and they please not God, and are contrary to all men:

16 **Forbidding us to speak to the Gentiles that they might be saved,** to fill up their sins alway: for the wrath is come upon them to the uttermost.

The Judean churches that **already WERE in Christ** did not even recognize Paul's face. But they sure knew his name and reputation .... because he had persecuted them in the past, before he came to his own faith in Christ:

**Gal 1:21-23** Afterwards I came into the regions of Syria and Cilicia;

22 And was **unknown by face**

**unto the churches of Judaea which were in Christ:**

23 But they had heard only, That he which **persecuted us in times past now preacheth the faith which once he destroyed.**

Rather than listen to some preachers tell us otherwise, we have verses that show **Paul was not the 1st person to be classified as being in Christ:**

**Rom 16:7** Salute Andronicus and Junia, my kinsmen, and my fellowprisoners, who are of note among the apostles, **who also were in Christ before me.**

Whatever believers who were **in Christ before Paul** .... well, they would fit into the 'new creature' category, too.

**Being in Christ .... was what made them be a new creature:**

2 Cor 5:17 Therefore if any man be **in Christ**,  
 he is a new creature:  
 old things are passed away;  
 behold, **all things are become new.**

Some preachers have mis-used that verse by claiming that Paul taught a mystery body of information that started a brand new thing. But we just read the verses that showed people **in Christ before Paul.**

It did not matter whether they were **before or after Paul ....**

it did not matter whether they were **Jews or Gentiles ....**

**being in Christ .... they are a new creature:**

Gal 6:15 For **in Christ Jesus** neither circumcision availeth any thing, nor uncircumcision, but a new creature.

A little earlier, Paul described **our one-ness .... and our inheritance:**

Gal 3:26-29 For ye are all the children of God by faith in Christ Jesus.

27 For as many of you as have been baptized into Christ have put on Christ.

28 **There is neither Jew nor Greek**, there is neither bond nor free, there is neither male nor female: for **ye are all one in Christ Jesus.**

29 And if ye be Christ's, then are ye Abraham's seed, and heirs according to the promise. (That may not fit on the chart, but it is God's word.)

The scripture says in **Acts 18:24-28**, that Apollos was a Jew, who 'spake and taught diligently the things of the Lord, knowing only the baptism of John.' **After** Aquila and Priscilla expounded unto him the way of God more perfectly' .... **Apollos** 'helped them much which had believed through grace'.

People in the 'grace movement' (as they call it) make a big division between folks who were saved under Israel's prophecy program .... and people who were saved by Paul's gospel, under the mystery program.

**They create a totally new entity, which they term "the church, the body of Christ" for distinct clarity. They carefully guard and keep it completely separate** from the "kingdom church" which operated before Paul (really Saul then) was saved in Acts 9.

It is important, as we go through this next passage, that we **watch the scriptures put both Paul and Apollos into ONE BODY .... as ONE .... NOT into different, distinct, separate programs!**

Paul rebuked the **fleshly** Corinthians for **splitting themselves up:**

**1 Cor 3:3-8** For **ye are yet carnal:**

for whereas there is among you **envying, and strife, and divisions, are ye not carnal,** and walk as men?

**4** For while one saith, **I am of Paul;**  
and another, **I am of Apollos;**  
**are ye not carnal?**

**5** **Who then is Paul,**  
**and who is Apollos,**  
**but ministers by whom ye believed,**  
even as the Lord gave to every man?

**6** **I (Paul)** have planted,  
**Apollos** watered;  
but God gave the increase.

**7** So then neither is he that planteth any thing, **(Paul)**  
neither he that watereth; **(Apollos)**  
but God that giveth the increase.

**8** Now he that planteth **(Paul)** and he that watereth **(Apollos)** **are one:**  
and every man shall receive his own reward according to his own labour.

Remember that as believers are **joined as one unto Christ ....**

we are also **joined as one with each other:**

**1 Cor 1:10-13** Now I beseech you, brethren, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that ye all speak the same thing, and that **there be no divisions among you**; but that ye be **perfectly joined together** in the same mind and in the same judgment.

Paul scolded the saints at Corinth for arguing and **making DIVISIONS .... AMONG themselves:**

11 For it hath been declared unto me of you, my brethren, by them which are of the house of Chloe, that **there are contentions among you.**

12 **Now this I say, that every one of you saith,**  
**I am of Paul;**  
**and I of Apollos;**  
**and I of Cephas;**  
**and I of Christ.**

13 **Is Christ divided?**

was Paul crucified for you?  
 or were ye baptized in the name of Paul?

Christ is the **SAME LORD** - He is not divided .... and neither are the people

that are one with Him .... and that are one with each other ----

no matter which minister brought them into the faith:

**Rom 10:12** For there is **no difference between the Jew and the Greek: for the same Lord over all** is rich unto **all that call upon him.**

At the last passover supper Jesus ate with His disciples (Luke 22:14-20), He gave them the cup and unleavened bread.

**Paul described the same elements as the saints share unity in Christ with each other in this same memorial of the new testament:**

**1 Cor 10:16-17** **The cup** of blessing which we bless, is it not the communion (<koinonia> like fellowship) of the **blood of Christ?**

**The bread** which we break, is it not the communion <koinonia> of **the body of Christ?**

17 For we being many are **one bread, and one body:**  
 for **we are all partakers of that one bread.**

Still in the same epistle, Paul returned to the subject of **one body**:

**1 Cor 12:12-13** For as **the body is one**, and hath many members, and all the members of that **one body**, being many, are **one body**: so also is Christ.

13 For by one Spirit are we all baptized into **one body**, **whether we be Jews or Gentiles**, whether we be bond or free; and have been all made to drink into one Spirit.

Again Paul shows **all believers merged in together into one body**:

**1 Cor 12:20, 27** But now are they many members, yet but **one body**.  
27 Now **ye are the body of Christ**, and members in particular.

Paul taught **the same 'one body' truth** to the saints at Rome:

**Rom 12:5** So we, being many, are **one body** in Christ, and every one members one of another.

Now, we'll examine a familiar passage to notice what the verses really say:

**Eph 2:11-15** Wherefore remember, that ye being **in time past** Gentiles in the flesh, who are called Uncircumcision by that which is called the Circumcision in the flesh made by hands;

12 That **at that time** (what time? time past) ye were **without Christ**, (ye were not 'in Christ') being **aliens from** the commonwealth of Israel, and **strangers from** the covenants of promise, having **no hope**, and **without God** in the world:

13 But now **in Christ Jesus** (no longer without Christ .... but in Him) ye who sometimes **were far off** are **made nigh** by the blood of Christ.

14 For he is our peace, **who hath made both one**, and **hath broken down the middle wall of partition between us**;

15 Having abolished in his flesh the enmity, even the law of commandments contained in ordinances;

for **to make in himself of twain one new man**, so making peace;

The Jews had the law and the Gentiles did not have the law ....  
**but now, for all who believe** .... Christ took away the law:

**Rom 10:4** For **Christ is the end of the law** for righteousness **to every one that believeth**.

Notice that God does not begin an entirely separate unit, rather

**He merges the Gentiles in WITH the saints** who were already in Christ:

**Eph 2:16-19** And that he might **reconcile both** unto God in **one body** by the cross, having slain the enmity thereby:

17 And came and preached peace to you which were afar off, and to them that were nigh.

18 For through him we **both have access** by one Spirit unto the Father.

19 Now therefore **ye are no more strangers and foreigners, but fellowcitizens with the saints, and of the household of God;**

Back in Eph 2:12, we were **strangers from** the covenants of promise, and **aliens from** the commonwealth of Israel. Now we are **made one body WITH them**. Every person who is a believer is part of God's family .... the church. God's household is singular:

**Gal 6:10** As we have therefore opportunity, let us do good unto all men, especially unto them who are of **the household of faith**.

God doesn't have 2 different families .... although until the resurrection, they are in 2 different locations. God just has **one family .... one body**:

**Eph 3:15** Of whom **the whole family** in heaven and earth is named,

The dead saints are in God's **heavenly** kingdom (2 Tim 4:18).

The alive saints are still here on earth in God's **spiritual** kingdom (Luke 17:21, Col 1:13) .... until we die and our soul goes to heaven to be with the Lord (2 Cor 5:6-8) .... until the day of redemption of our bodies (Rom 8:23-25) .... when God brings His kingdom to earth (Matt 6:10, Dan 2:44) .... in the fulness of times (Rev 10:6,7) at the last (7th) trump.

Then the **mystery of God** will be finished (Col 2:2, Rev 10:7) ....

when God brings those that sleep in Jesus down from heaven (1 Thes 4:14-18) and gathers his elect together (2 Thes 2:1-4) in the day of Christ:

**Mark 13:26-27** And then shall they see the Son of man coming in the clouds with great power and glory.

27 And then shall he send his angels (**Matt 24:31** includes "with a great sound of a trumpet,"), and shall **gather together his elect** from the four winds, **from the uttermost part of the earth to the uttermost part of heaven.**

**Eph 1:10** That in the dispensation of the fulness of times he might **gather together in one all things in Christ, both which are in heaven, and which are on earth;** even in him:

The house of God is the church, those in the family 'of faith' and 'by faith':

**1 Tim 3:15** But if I tarry long, that thou mayest know how thou oughtest to behave thyself in **the house of God, which is the church of the living God, the pillar and ground of the truth.**

Peter also wrote about God's house .... being acceptable (like Rom 15:16), and he wrote that Jesus is the chief cornerstone, just like Paul wrote:

**1 Pet 2:5-6** Ye also, as lively stones, are built up a spiritual house, an holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices, **acceptable to God** by Jesus Christ.

6 Wherefore also it is contained in the scripture, Behold, I lay in Sion a **chief corner stone**, elect, precious: and he that believeth on him shall not be confounded.

Paul showed how God's household is joined together and built upon Jesus Christ (1 Cor 3:10,11) .... the same foundation Peter said:

**Eph 2:19-20** Now therefore ye are **no more** strangers and foreigners, but fellowcitizens **with** the saints, and **of** the household of God;

20 And are **built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets**, Jesus Christ himself being **the chief corner stone;**

21 In whom **all the building fitly framed together groweth** unto an holy temple in the Lord:

22 In whom **ye also are builded together for an habitation of God** through the Spirit.

We are **joined with Christ .... and with each other ... in His body:**

**Eph 4:16** From whom **the whole body fitly joined together and compacted** by that which every joint supplieth, according to the effectual working in the measure of every part, maketh increase of the body unto the edifying of itself in love.

When we read Eph 3, we see again, that God **unified .... not divided.**

Paul described exactly what **the mystery of Christ is.** God did not start another entity .... He joined us WITH them .... **to become PART of them:**

**Eph 3:1-6** For this cause I Paul, the prisoner of Jesus Christ for you Gentiles,

2 If ye have heard of the dispensation of the grace of God which is given me to you-ward:

3 How that by revelation he made known unto me **the mystery;**  
(as I wrote afore in few words,

4 Whereby, when ye read, ye may understand my knowledge  
in **the mystery of Christ**)

5 Which in other ages was not made known unto the sons of men, as it is now revealed unto his holy apostles and prophets by the Spirit;

**God placed the Gentiles in with the saints ....**

**on an equal level with Israel .... no longer under them:**

6 That the Gentiles should be **fellowheirs,** (what they inherit, we inherit)  
**and of the same body,** (we are in one body WITH them)  
**and partakers of his promise in Christ** (we take part of  
their promise .... because we are now .... all .... in Christ) by the gospel:

The saints that were already in Christ .... are not left out of the body.

They become it .... and we are put in with them:

**Eph 4:4** There is **one body,** and one Spirit, even as ye are called in one hope of your calling;

Paul explained **the one body** in a similar way to the saints at Colosse:

**Col 3:11, 15** Where there is neither Greek nor Jew,  
circumcision nor uncircumcision,  
Barbarian, Scythian, bond nor free:  
but Christ is all, and in all.

15 And let the peace of God rule in your hearts, to the which also ye are called in **one body**; and be ye thankful.

In **Romans 11**, we can read that God cast away the unbelievers of Israel .... and **inserted** the believing Gentiles .... into the believing remnant of Israel, the little flock.

In **Acts 20**, Paul called the church at Ephesus a flock.

**Acts 20:24** But none of these things move me, neither count I my life dear unto myself, so that I might finish my course with joy, and the ministry, which I have received of the Lord Jesus, to testify **the gospel of the grace of God**.

25 And now, behold, I know that ye all, **among whom I have gone preaching the kingdom of God**, shall see my face no more.

26 Wherefore I take you to record this day, that I am pure from the blood of all men.

**The church at Ephesus was referred to by Paul .... as the flock:**

27 For I have not shunned to declare unto you all the counsel of God.

28 Take heed therefore unto yourselves, **and to all the flock**, over the which the Holy Ghost hath made you overseers, to feed the church of God, which he hath purchased with his own blood.

29 For I know this, that after my departing shall grievous wolves enter in among you, not sparing **the flock**.

30 Also of your own selves shall men arise, speaking perverse things, to draw away disciples after them.

31 Therefore watch, and remember, that by the space of three years I ceased not to warn every one night and day with tears.

**As Jesus told Saul when he was initially commissioned .... the Gentiles would get an inheritance AMONG them sanctified believers .... not be a different group .... AWAY from them:**

32 And now, brethren, I commend you to God, and to **the word of his grace, which is able to build you up, and to give you an inheritance among all them which are sanctified**.

It is clear from **Acts 18:24-25 and 19:1-7** that some believers at Ephesus knew only John's water baptism. They were therefore 'the flock'.

But the Ephesians were also called the **body of Christ**. Thus, it appears that the flock became one body .... comprised of all the saints, regardless of being Jew or Gentile .... or whose ministry they had believed:

**Eph 4:12** For the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of **the body of Christ**:

Peter was the 1st to say there is no difference between us and them:

**Acts 15:7-11** And when there had been much disputing, Peter rose up, and said unto them, Men and brethren, ye know how that a good while ago (that actually happened in Acts chapter 10 with Cornelius) God made choice among us, that **the Gentiles by my mouth should hear the word of the gospel, and believe.**

8 And God, which knoweth the hearts, bare them witness,  
giving them the Holy Ghost, even as he did unto us;

9 And **put no difference between us and them,**  
purifying their hearts by faith.

10 Now therefore why tempt ye God, to put a yoke upon the neck of the disciples, which neither our fathers nor we were able to bear?

11 But we believe that **through the grace** of the Lord Jesus Christ **we shall be saved, even as they.**

Yet 'grace believers' make a world of difference between us and them .... as far away as heaven is from earth. I think we should take a big dose of

## Rom 4:3 **For what saith the scripture?**

Abraham believed God, and it was counted unto him for righteousness.

**Gal 1:10** For do I now persuade men, or God? or do I seek to please men? for if I yet pleased men, I should not be the servant of Christ.

*This is David Dowell, saying, "Think about it!"*