

ONE BODY BASED ON CHRIST ONLY

The body is urged to have perfect unity with no division - 1 Cor 1:10-13 - 10 I appeal to you, brothers, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that all of you agree with one another so that there may be **NO DIVISIONS AMONG YOU** and that you may be **PERFECTLY UNITED in MIND and THOUGHT**. 11 My brothers, some from Chloe's household have informed me that there are quarrels among you. 12 What I mean is this: One of you says, "I follow Paul"; another, "I follow Apollos"; another, "I follow Cephas"; still another, "I follow Christ." 13 **IS CHRIST DIVIDED? WAS PAUL CRUCIFIED FOR YOU? WERE YOU BAPTIZED INTO THE NAME OF PAUL?**

God made us to be One body, no division

1 Cor 12:12-13 - 12 **THE BODY IS A UNIT**, though it is made up of many parts; and though all its parts are many, THEY FORM ONE BODY. **So it is with Christ**. 13 For we were all baptized by one Spirit into one body — **whether Jews or Greeks, slave or free** — and we were all given the one Spirit to drink.

1 Cor 12:24-26 - 24 while our presentable parts need no special treatment. But God has combined the members of the body and has given greater honor to the parts that lacked it, 25 so that there should be **NO DIVISION IN THE BODY**, but that its parts should have equal concern for each other. 26 If one part suffers, every part suffers with it; if one part is honored, every part rejoices with it.

Nothing is to divide us...neither race, status, culture, location...NOTHING - Col 3:9-16 - 9 Do not lie to each other, since you have taken off your old self with its practices 10 and have put on the new self, which is being renewed in knowledge in the image of its Creator. 11 Here there is no Greek or Jew, circumcised or uncircumcised, barbarian, Scythian, slave or free, but **CHRIST IS ALL, AND IS IN ALL**. 12 Therefore, **as God's chosen people, holy and dearly loved**, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience. 13 Bear with each other and forgive whatever grievances you may have against one another. Forgive as the Lord forgave you. 14 And over all these virtues put on love, which binds them all together in perfect unity. 15 Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, since as **MEMBERS OF ONE BODY** you were called to peace. And be thankful.

The thing that deems us exclusively for God and to BE one with the Body is God's Word - John 17:14-23 - 14 I have given them your word and the world has hated them, for they are not of the world any more than I am of the world. 15 My prayer is not that you take them out of the world but that you protect them from the evil one. 16 They are not of the world, even as I am not of it. 17 **SANCTIFY THEM BY THE TRUTH; YOUR WORD IS TRUTH**. 18 As you sent me into the world, I have sent them into the world. 19 For them I sanctify myself, that they too may be truly sanctified. 20 "My prayer is not for them alone. I pray also for those who will believe in me through their message, 21 that **all of them may be one, Father, just as you are in me and I am in you**. May they also be in us so that the world may believe that you have sent me. 22 I have given them the glory that you gave me, that they may be one as we are one: 23 I in them and you in me. May they be brought to complete unity to let the world know that you sent me and have loved them even as you have loved me.

The church service purpose is to bring the body together as one in Christs - Eph 4:11-16 - 11 It was he who gave some to be apostles, some to be prophets, some to be evangelists, and some to be pastors and teachers, 12 **TO PREPARE GOD'S PEOPLE FOR WORKS OF SERVICE**, so that the body of Christ may be built up 13 **until we all reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of the Son of God and become mature, attaining to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ**. 14 Then we will no longer be infants, tossed back and forth by the waves, and blown here and there by every wind of teaching and by the cunning and craftiness of men in their deceitful scheming. 15 Instead, speaking the truth in love, we will in all things grow up into him who is the Head, that is, Christ. 16 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.

The Church is responsible for eliminating wrong teachings –

Titus 1:10-14 - 10 For there are many rebellious people, mere talkers and deceivers, especially those of the circumcision group. 11 They must be silenced, because they are ruining whole households by **teaching things they ought not to teach** — and that for the sake of dishonest gain. 12 Even one of their own prophets has said, "Cretans are always liars, evil brutes, lazy gluttons." 13 This testimony is true. Therefore, rebuke them sharply, **SO THAT** they will be sound in the faith 14 and will pay no attention to Jewish myths or to the commands of those who reject the truth.

1 Tim 1:3-7 - 3 As I urged you when I went into Macedonia, stay there in Ephesus so that you may command certain men not to teach false doctrines any longer 4 nor to devote themselves to **myths and endless genealogies**. These promote controversies rather than God's work — **which is by faith**. 5 The goal of this command is love, which comes from a pure heart and a good conscience and a sincere faith. 6 **Some have wandered away from these and turned to meaningless talk**. 7 They want to be teachers of the law, but they do not know what they are talking about or what they so confidently affirm.

Minister's main tool must be the SOUND Word of God - Titus 1:9 He must hold firmly to the trustworthy message as it has been taught, so that he can encourage others by sound doctrine and refute those who oppose it.

The leading cause of Christians being misled and separated is desire - 2 Tim 4:3-4 - 3 For the time will come when men will not put up with sound doctrine. Instead, **TO SUIT THEIR OWN DESIRES**, they will **gather around them a great number of teachers to say what their itching ears want to hear.** 4 They will turn their ears away from the truth and turn aside to myths.

We also tend to tolerate false doctrine - 2 Cor 11:2-4 - 2 I am jealous for you with a godly jealousy. I promised you to one husband, to Christ, so that I might present you as a pure virgin to him. 3 But I am afraid that just as Eve was deceived by the serpent's cunning, your minds may somehow be led astray from your sincere and pure devotion to Christ. 4 For if someone comes to you and preaches a Jesus other than the Jesus we preached, or if you receive a different spirit from the one you received, or a different gospel from the one you accepted, **YOU PUT UP WITH IT EASILY ENOUGH.**

In Order for Godly unity to be achieved there are certain things that must be in place

Recognizing there is only one base - 1 Cor 3:10-11 - 10 By the grace God has given me, I laid a foundation as an expert builder, and someone else is building on it. But each one should be careful how he builds. 11 For **NO ONE CAN LAY ANY FOUNDATION OTHER THAN THE ONE ALREADY LAID, WHICH IS JESUS CHRIST.**

Realize there is only one way and one truth - John 14:6 Jesus answered, "I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.

Sound doctrine is mandatory for ALL teaching - Titus 2:1 You must teach what is in accord with sound doctrine.

We must only depend on the pure Word of God - 1 Tim 4:7 Have nothing to do with godless myths and old wives' tales; rather, train yourself to be godly.

We must stay pure because only those that are Pure will see clearly - Titus 1:15-16 - 15 **TO THE PURE, ALL THINGS ARE PURE**, but to those who are **corrupted and do not believe, NOTHING IS PURE.** In fact, both their minds and consciences are corrupted. 16 They claim to know God, but **by their actions they deny him.** They are detestable, disobedient and unfit for doing anything good.

We are to make every effort to be, and stay, as one - Eph 4:3-6 - 3 **Make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace.** 4 There is **ONE** body and **ONE** Spirit— just as you were called to **ONE** hope when you were called— 5 **ONE** Lord, **ONE** faith, **ONE** baptism; 6 **ONE** God and Father of all, who is over all and through all and in all.

We must also stop partnering with Non-Christians and ask why are we allowing our commonality to be based on the flesh - 2 Cor 6:14-16 - 14 Do not be yoked together with unbelievers. For what do righteousness and wickedness have in common? Or what fellowship can light have with darkness? 15 What harmony is there between Christ and Belial? What does a believer have in common with an unbeliever? 16 What agreement is there between the temple of God and idols? For we are the temple of the living God. As God has said: "I will live with them and walk among them, and I will be their God, and they will be my people."

Know that those preaching false Gospels are eternally in danger - Gal 1:6-9 - 6 I am astonished that you are so quickly deserting the one who called you by the grace of Christ and are turning to a different gospel— 7 which is really no gospel at all. Evidently some people are throwing you into confusion and are trying to pervert the gospel of Christ. 8 But even if we or an angel from heaven should preach a gospel other than the one we preached to you, **LET HIM BE ETERNALLY CONDEMNED!** 9 As we have already said, so now I say again: If anybody is preaching to you a gospel other than what you accepted, **LET HIM BE ETERNALLY CONDEMNED!**

Once the main things are in place, what we need to do to stay a Body Based ON CHRIST, we must...

We are to get and hold to the teachings of Christ to be truly set free - John 8:31-32 - 31 To the Jews who had believed him, Jesus said, "**IF** you hold to my teaching, you are really my disciples. 32 **THEN** you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free."

We must responsibly check everything that we are given

Part of God's protection for us is us testing everything - 1 Thess 5:21-22 - 21 **TEST EVERYTHING.** Hold on to the good. 22 Avoid every kind of evil.

We must RECEIVE the message and check it no matter who it comes from - Acts 17:11 Now the Bereans were of more noble character than the Thessalonians, for they received the message with great eagerness and examined the Scriptures every day to see if what Paul said was true.

We must test every teacher, making sure they are in line with Christ - 1 John 4:1-3 - Dear friends, **DO NOT BELIEVE EVERY SPIRIT**, but test the spirits to see whether they are from God, because many false prophets have gone out into the world. 2 **This is how you can recognize the Spirit of God**: Every spirit that **acknowledges** that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is from God, 3 but every spirit that does not acknowledge Jesus is not from God. This is the spirit of the antichrist, which you have heard is coming and even now is already in the world.

If we are deceived or not is our choice. We must look at the substance of all messages and doctrine. -Col 2:8 - 8 **SEE TO IT** that no one takes you captive through hollow and deceptive philosophy, which depends on human tradition and the basic principles of this world rather than on Christ.

Be Spiritual or else we will continue on the path of confusion - 1 Cor 3:1-4 - Brothers, **I COULD NOT ADDRESS YOU AS SPIRITUAL BUT AS WORLDLY** — mere infants in Christ. 2 I gave you milk, not solid food, for you were not yet ready for it. Indeed, you are still not ready. 3 You are still worldly. For since **there is jealousy and quarreling among you, are you not worldly?** Are you not acting like mere men? 4 For when one says, "I follow Paul," and another, "I follow Apollos," are you not mere men?

DO NOT add to God's Word or accept anyone who does

1 Cor 4:6 Now, brothers, I have applied these things to myself and Apollos for your benefit, so that you may learn from us the meaning of the saying, "**DO NOT GO BEYOND WHAT IS WRITTEN**." Then you will not take pride in one man over against another.

2 John 9-11 - 9 Anyone who runs ahead and does not continue in the teaching of Christ does not have God; whoever continues in the teaching has both the Father and the Son. 10 If anyone comes to you and does not bring this teaching, DO NOT TAKE HIM INTO YOUR HOUSE OR WELCOME HIM. 11 **ANYONE WHO WELCOMES HIM SHARES IN HIS WICKED WORK**.

Follow Jesus as our example of obedience - John 14:31 but **the world must learn** that I love the Father and that I do EXACTLY what my father has commanded me. "Come now; let us leave.

We must choose the correct "life purpose" and "life path" - Matt 7:13-14 - 13 **"Enter through the narrow gate**. For wide is the gate and broad is the road that leads to destruction, and many enter through it. 14 But small is the gate and narrow the road that leads to life, and only a few find it.

In order for us to truly become one we must remove personal desire and views as a motivation - Phil 2:2-4 - 2 then make my joy complete by being like-minded, having the same love, being one in spirit and purpose. 3 **Do NOTHING** out of **selfish ambition** or **vain conceit**, but in humility consider others better than yourselves. 4 Each of you should look not only to your own interests, but also to the interests of others.