

The Body of Christ!

Church? Why Belong? Why Bother?

*“For just as the body is one and has many members,
and all the members of the body, though many, are one body, so it is with Christ.”
1 Corinthians 12:12 ESV*

A Biblical Church Reveals the Reality of Jesus to _____!

I. Our _____ is in Christ Alone

Paul’s Favorite Metaphor for the Church

*“And he is the head of the body, the church. He is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, that in everything he might be preeminent.”
Colossians 1:18 ESV*

Metaphor— a figure of speech in which a word or phrase that ordinarily designates one thing is used to designate another, thus making an implicit comparison. One thing conceived as representing another; a symbol. (The American Heritage® Dictionary of the English Language, 5th Edition)

“So Jesus again said to them, “Truly, truly, I say to you, I am the door of the sheep.” John 10:7 ESV

The Universal Church expressed through a Local Congregation.

*“For as in one body we have many members, and the members do not all have the same function, so we, though many, are one body in Christ, and individually members one of another.”
Romans 12:4–5 ESV*

Speaks to Our Relationship with Jesus and Others!

II. Our Relationship to _____ _____ of Jesus

*“He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation.”
Colossians 1:15 ESV*

(Also Colossians 1:16-17)

*“And he is the head of the body, the church. He is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, that in everything he might be preeminent.”
Colossians 1:18 ESV*

Preeminence— _____ above all others!

_____ over the Church

*“For in him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell,”
Colossians 1:19 ESV*

*“For in him the whole fullness of deity dwells bodily,”
Colossians 2:9 ESV*

*“In the same way husbands should love their wives as their own bodies... For no one ever hated his own flesh, but nourishes and cherishes it, just as Christ does the church, because we are members of his body.”
Ephesians 5:28,30 ESV*

_____ of the Church

*“For in him the whole fullness of deity dwells bodily, and you have been filled in him, who is the head of all rule and authority.”
Colossians 2:9–10 ESV*

(Also 2 Peter 1:4; John 1:16)

“The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have life and have it abundantly.” John 10:10 ESV

“So Jesus said to the Jews who had believed him, “If you abide in my word, you are truly my disciples, and you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free.”” John 8:31–32 ESV

III. Our Relationship with Other _____ _____ the Local Assembly

“Now there are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit; and there are varieties of service, but the same Lord; and there are varieties of activities, but it is the same God who empowers them all in everyone.” 1 Corinthians 12:4–6 ESV

“To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good.” 1 Corinthians 12:7 ESV

“so we, though many, are one body in Christ, and individually members one of another. Having gifts that differ according to the grace given to us, let us use them: if prophecy, in proportion to our faith;” Romans 12:5–7a ESV



_____ for Fellow Believers

“For the body does not consist of one member but of many.” 1 Corinthians 12:14 ESV

(Also 1 Corinthians 12:15-17)

But as it is, God arranged the members in the body, each one of them, as he chose. If all were a single member, where would the body be? As it is, there are many parts, yet one body.” 1 Corinthians 12:18–20 ESV

_____ to Fellow Believers

“The eye cannot say to the hand, “I have no need of you,” nor again the head to the feet, “I have no need of you.”” 1 Corinthians 12:21 ESV

(Also 1 Corinthians 12:22-25)

“If one member suffers, all suffer together; if one member is honored, all rejoice together.” 1 Corinthians 12:26 ESV

“Now you are the body of Christ and individually members of it.” 1 Corinthians 12:27 ESV

A Biblical Church Reveals the Reality of Jesus to Our World!

“For just as the body is one and has many members, and all the members of the body, though many, are one body, so it is with Christ.” 1 Corinthians 12:12 ESV