



The Church - The Body of Christ

Key idea:

The Church is the Body of Christ, in which believers are united with one another and with Jesus Christ, their Head and source of life.

Key text:

1 Corinthians 12:12–13

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.

Key points:

1. The Church is the Body of Christ, and this is taught in many passages in the New Testament.
2. As the Body of Christ, the Church expresses both the oneness and diversity of the Trinity. This is true in both the universal Church and each local church.
3. The Body of Christ is a spiritual reality, not just a metaphor.
4. Through the Holy Spirit, Christians are spiritually united with one another as members/parts of the Body of Christ.
5. The entire Church is united to Christ as its Head and draws its life from Him.

Questions for discussion/application:

1. What part of Sunday's teaching stood out most to me? Why?
2. Paul speaks of the Church as the Body of Christ in Romans 12:4-5; 1 Corinthians 10:17; Ephesians 1:22-23; Ephesians 4:4, 11-16; Ephesians 5:23-30; Colossians 1:18, 24; Colossians 2:19; Colossians 3:15. This idea is not clearly taught by other New Testament authors. Why did Paul have such insight into the Church as the

Body of Christ? What happened at his conversion to lead to this? What in His ministry helped him to grasp this reality?

3. How does the metaphor of the human body for the Church teach me about the unity of the Church?
4. How does the metaphor of the human body for the Church teach me about the diversity of the Church?
5. Are the unity and diversity of the Church to be understood and embraced in terms of the universal Church, each individual local church, or both? Why?
6. Is the Church as the Body of Christ simply a metaphor or is the Church the Body of Christ in reality? What difference does this make?
7. How does Paul relate our experience of the Holy Spirit as a source of our unity in the Church? Have I seen the experience of the Spirit as a source of unity or a source of division in the Church in my life? Why has it been this way?
8. If the Body of Christ is a reality, how important is it for me as an individual part/member to experience an ongoing, vital connection with the rest of the Body? Is it possible for me to just be connected to Jesus without the rest of the Body? Why or why not?
9. How does the church as a whole draw life from Christ in our corporate worship? How do I as an individual part/member draw life from Christ in corporate worship?
10. How can I make gathering for corporate worship a more central part of my life in Christ?
11. Who will I call or see to encourage this week? What specific members of BRCC will I commit before God to call or spend time with in person?