

SECTION ELEVEN : ONE BODY IN CHRIST

114. ONE BODY IN CHRIST

Galatians 3:27-28

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

28 There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, there is neither male nor female; for you are all one in Christ Jesus.

Colossians 3:11

Where there is neither Greek nor Jew, circumcised nor uncircumcised, barbarian, Scythian, slave nor free, but Christ is all and in all.

Our being in Christ has made us one with everyone else who is in Christ. Our identity in Christ supersedes our natural identity - racial, social or gender. Race, social standing, or gender does not divide us.

2 Corinthians 5:16-17

16 Therefore, from now on, we regard no one according to the flesh. Even though we have known Christ according to the flesh, yet now we know Him thus no longer.

17 Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new.

We do not know people after the natural but focus on who we are in Christ.

Ephesians 1:10

That in the dispensation of the fullness of the times He might gather together in one all things in Christ, both which are in heaven and which are on earth—in Him.

Ephesians 3:6

That the Gentiles should be fellow heirs, of the same body, and partakers of His promise in Christ through the gospel.

115. GOD'S DWELLING PLACE

Ephesians 2:21-22

21 In whom the whole building, being fitted together, grows into a holy temple in the Lord,

22 in whom you also are being built together for a dwelling place of God in the Spirit.

1 Peter 2:5

You also, as living stones, are being built up a spiritual house, a holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ.

We are God's dwelling place on Earth. We are to offer up spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ.

Each one must do our part to keep the Temple holy

1 Corinthians 3:16-17

16 Do you not know that you are the temple of God and that the Spirit of God dwells in you?

17 If anyone defiles the temple of God, God will destroy him. For the temple of God is holy, which temple you are.

As God's dwelling place we establish God's presence in our community

Psalm 132:13-18

13 For the LORD has chosen Zion; He has desired it for His dwelling place:

14 "This is My resting place forever; Here I will dwell, for I have desired it.

15 I will abundantly bless her provision; I will satisfy her poor with bread.

16 I will also clothe her priests with salvation, And her saints shall shout aloud for joy.

17 There I will make the horn of David grow; I will prepare a lamp for My Anointed.

18 His enemies I will clothe with shame, But upon Himself His crown shall flourish."

We destabilize demonic strongholds in our city

1 Samuel 5:1-4

1 Then the Philistines took the ark of God and brought it from Ebenezer to Ashdod.

2 When the Philistines took the ark of God, they brought it into the house of Dagon and set it by Dagon.

3 And when the people of Ashdod arose early in the morning, there was Dagon, fallen on its face to the earth before the ark of the LORD. So they took Dagon and set it in its place again.

4 And when they arose early the next morning, there was Dagon, fallen on its face to the ground before the ark of the LORD. The head of Dagon and both the palms of its hands were broken off on the threshold; only Dagon's torso was left of it.

116. ONE BREAD ONE CUP

1 Corinthians 10:16-17,21

16 The cup of blessing which we bless, is it not the communion of the blood of Christ? The bread which we break, is it not the communion of the body of Christ?

17 For we, though many, are one bread and one body; for we all partake of that one bread.

21 You cannot drink the cup of the Lord and the cup of demons; you cannot partake of the Lord's table and of the table of demons.

The Holy Communion, the Lord's Table expresses that we are one body. We eat of one bread and drink of one cup. Our covenant with God is also our covenant with each other. Celebrate the blessings of the covenant and expresses our spiritual unity with each other.

117. MANY MEMBERS, MANY FUNCTIONS

Romans 12:4-8

4 For as we have many members in one body, but all the members do not have the same function,

5 so we, being many, are one body in Christ, and individually members of one another.

6 Having then gifts differing according to the grace that is given to us, let us use them: if prophecy, let us prophesy in proportion to our faith;

7 or ministry, let us use it in our ministering; he who teaches, in teaching;

8 he who exhorts, in exhortation; he who gives, with liberality; he who leads, with diligence; he who shows mercy, with cheerfulness.

As part of one body, we recognize that there are many members, with many functions in the body.

118. SERVING TOGETHER

1 Corinthians 12:12-27

12 For as the body is one and has many members, but all the members of that one body, being many, are one body, so also is Christ.

13 For by one Spirit we were all baptized into one body— whether Jews or Greeks, whether slaves or free—and have all been made to drink into one Spirit.

14 For in fact the body is not one member but many.

15 If the foot should say, “Because I am not a hand, I am not of the body,” is it therefore not of the body?

16 And if the ear should say, “Because I am not an eye, I am not of the body,” is it therefore not of the body?

17 If the whole body were an eye, where would be the hearing? If the whole were hearing, where would be the smelling?

18 But now God has set the members, each one of them, in the body just as He pleased.

19 And if they were all one member, where would the body be?

20 But now indeed there are many members, yet one body.

21 And 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.”

22 No, much rather, those members of the body which seem to be weaker are necessary.

23 And those members of the body which we think to be less honorable, on these we bestow greater honor; and our unpresentable parts have greater modesty,

24 but our presentable parts have no need. But God composed the body, having given greater honor to that part which lacks it,

25 that there should be no schism in the body, but that the members should have the same care for one another.

26 And if one member suffers, all the members suffer with it; or if one member is honored, all the members rejoice with it.

27 Now you are the body of Christ, and members individually.

We learn to serve together, complementing each other, and not competing with one another.

We are dependent on each other.

We must honor and respect every member.

God has given greater honor to those who do not receive honor.

1 Peter 5:14

Greet ye one another with a kiss of charity. Peace be with you all that are in Christ Jesus. Amen.

We recognize others who are in Christ Jesus.

119. COLLECTIVELY REPRESENTING CHRIST

Ephesians 1:22,23

22 And He put all things under His feet, and gave Him to be head over all things to the church,

23 which is His body, the fullness of Him who fills all in all.

We collectively represent Christ to the world. We are His Body here on Earth. We are His hands and His feet.

120. CHURCHES IN CHRIST

Galatians 1:22

And I was unknown by face to the churches of Judea which were in Christ.

1 Thessalonians 2:14

For you, brethren, became imitators of the churches of God which are in Judea in Christ Jesus. For you also suffered the same things from your own countrymen, just as they did from the Judeans.

We honor other local churches that are in Christ, because, although diverse in our expressions, we are one.