

# Study Guide

## The Body of Christ

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### Key Thought

The church is God's redeemed people, brought together through Jesus Christ and united by the Holy Spirit. As members of the Body of Christ, every believer has been given a place, a purpose, and a responsibility to contribute to the life and growth of the whole.

### Key Verse:

*"For by one Spirit we were all baptized into one body... and we were all made to drink of one Spirit."*  
— 1 Corinthians 12:13

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## Introduction

The New Testament describes the church in several beautiful ways. It is:

- The Family of God
- A Spiritual Community
- The Body of Christ
- The Church Triumphant

Together, these pictures help us understand God's eternal plan and our place within it.

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## I. The Mystery of Christ and the Church

### Read

- Ephesians 2:11-22
- Ephesians 3:4-10

### Main Truths

- God has brought Jew and Gentile together through Christ.
- The church is one new people created by God's grace.
- Believers are fellow citizens and members of God's household.
- The church reveals the wisdom and glory of God.

## Questions for Reflection

1. What does Paul mean by the "mystery of Christ"?
  2. How does the gospel unite people who would otherwise be divided?
  3. What does it mean to be part of God's household?
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## II. The Church as a Spiritual Community

### Read

- Acts 2:42-47

### Main Truths

- The early church was devoted to fellowship.
- Christian community is built upon love, generosity, and unity.
- God's people are called to live differently from the world.
- Unity is precious to God and division is destructive.

## Questions for Reflection

1. What qualities defined the early church?
  2. Why is unity so important in the church?
  3. How can I help strengthen Christian fellowship?
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## III. The Body of Christ

### Read

- 1 Corinthians 12:4-14
- Romans 12:3-6

### Christ Came in a Body

Jesus took upon Himself human flesh and ministered among people. Filled with the Holy Spirit, He revealed the Father and accomplished the work of redemption.

### Christ Continues His Work Through His Church

The ministry of Christ did not end with His ascension. Through the Holy Spirit, Christ continues His work through His people.

## **Every Member Matters**

- We are baptized into one body.
- We have different gifts and callings.
- No member is unnecessary.
- No member can accomplish the work alone.
- We belong to one another.

## **We Are Stewards of Grace**

God has entrusted every believer with gifts and opportunities to serve. These gifts are not for personal glory but for the strengthening of the body and the glory of Christ.

### **Questions for Reflection**

1. What does it mean to be part of the Body of Christ?
  2. Why are different spiritual gifts necessary?
  3. How can pride or self-centeredness harm the church?
  4. What abilities or opportunities has God entrusted to me?
  5. In what practical ways can I strengthen the body of Christ this week?
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## **IV. The Church Triumphant**

### **Read**

- Ephesians 5:25-27
- Revelation 19:7-9
- Revelation 22:10-21

### **Main Truths**

- Christ is preparing His bride.
- The church lives with the hope of His return.
- The marriage supper of the Lamb is coming.
- The Spirit and the Bride together call the world to come to Christ.

### **Questions for Reflection**

1. How should the promise of Christ's return shape my daily life?
  2. What does it mean to live as part of Christ's prepared bride?
  3. How can the church faithfully proclaim, "Come"?
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## **Scripture References Used in This Message**

- Ephesians 2:11-22
  - Ephesians 3:4-10
  - Ephesians 2:19
  - Acts 2:42-47
  - Proverbs 6:19
  - Romans 5:8-10
  - 1 Corinthians 12:4-14
  - 1 Corinthians 12:13-14
  - Romans 12:3-6
  - Ephesians 5:25-27
  - Revelation 19:7-9
  - Revelation 22:10-21
  - John 1:14
  - John 3:34
  - Acts 1:1
  - John 15:1-8
  - Psalm 133:1
  - 2 Corinthians 6:14-18
  - Ephesians 4:7
  - Ephesians 4:11-16
  - Colossians 1:17-18
  - 1 Peter 4:10-11
  - Matthew 12:46-50
  - Romans 8:14-17
  - Galatians 4:4-7
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## **Additional Cross-References for Personal Study**

### **The Body of Christ**

- Ephesians 1:22-23
- Colossians 1:18
- Colossians 2:19

### **Unity in the Church**

- Ephesians 4:1-6
- Philippians 2:1-5
- John 17:20-23

### **Spiritual Gifts and Service**

- Romans 12:6-8
- 1 Corinthians 12:27-31
- 1 Peter 4:10-11

## **Love Within the Body**

- John 13:34-35
- 1 Corinthians 13
- Galatians 6:2

## **Spiritual Growth and Maturity**

- Ephesians 4:11-16
- Hebrews 10:24-25
- Colossians 3:12-17

## **The Return of Christ**

- Titus 2:11-14
- 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18
- Revelation 21:1-7

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## **Closing Challenge**

The New Testament never presents the Christian life as a solitary journey. God has called us into His family, placed us into His community, and joined us together as the Body of Christ.

**How am I using the grace and gifts God has given me to strengthen His church and glorify Christ?**

### **Prayer**

Father, thank You for making me a part of Your family and Your church. Help me to walk in humility, serve with the gifts You have entrusted to me, protect the unity of the body, and live with joyful expectation of Christ's return. In Jesus' name, Amen.