

Living in Union with Christ

Session #7 - United with Each Other Through Christ

**All Saints Church
2024-04-28**

<https://georgekong.me/asc/living-in-union-with-christ.zip>

introductory question

How conscious are you of the connection you have with others in Christ:

- during worship?
- when spending time with friends and family?
- when first meeting someone?

you are here

Sessions

- 1) Living in the Presence of God - Psalm 139, Psalm 1, proactivity, "bring it on"
- 2) Taste and See - The Affections and Loving God - Edwards, Piper, Smith
- 3) Union With the Present, Loving Lord Jesus Christ - John 14
- 4) Your Sanctification Story in Christ - Ferguson, Macaskill, Johnson, Powlison
- 5) Your Calling in Christ and Christ in Your Calling
- 6) United with Christ in His Suffering and in Our Suffering
- 7) United with Each Other Through Christ**

1 Corinthians 12

... 4 Now there are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit; 5 and there are varieties of service, but the same Lord; 6 and there are varieties of activities, but it is the same God who empowers them all in everyone. 7 To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good. 8 For to one is given through the Spirit the utterance of wisdom, and to another the utterance of knowledge according to the same Spirit, 9 to another faith by the same Spirit, to another gifts of healing by the one Spirit, 10 to another the working of miracles,

to another prophecy, to another the ability to distinguish between spirits, to another various kinds of tongues, to another the interpretation of tongues. 11 All these are empowered by one and the same Spirit, who apportions to each one individually as he wills.

12 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. 13 For in one Spirit we were all baptized into one body - Jews or Greeks, slaves or free - and all were made to drink of one Spirit.

1 Corinthians 12

14 For the body does not consist of one member but of many. 15 If the foot should say, "Because I am not a hand, I do not belong to the body," that would not make it any less a part of the body. 16 And if the ear should say, "Because I am not an eye, I do not belong to the body," that would not make it any less a part of the body. 17 If the whole body were an eye, where would be the sense of hearing? If the whole body were an ear, where would be the sense of smell? 18 But as it is, God arranged the members in the body, each one of them, as he chose. 19 If all were a single member, where would the body be? 20 As it is, there are many parts, yet one body.

21 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 On the contrary, the parts of the body that seem to be weaker are indispensable, 23 and on those parts of the body that we think less honorable we bestow the greater honor, and our unpresentable parts are treated with greater modesty, 24 which our more presentable parts do not require. But God has so composed the body, giving greater honor to the part that lacked it, 25 that there may be no division in the body, but that the members may have the same care for one another. 26 If one member suffers, all suffer together; if one member is honored, all rejoice together.

1 Corinthians 12

27 Now you are the body of Christ and individually members of it. 28 And God has appointed in the church first apostles, second prophets, third teachers, then miracles, then gifts of healing, helping, administrating, and various kinds of tongues. 29 Are all apostles? Are all prophets? Are all teachers? Do all work miracles? 30 Do all possess gifts of healing? Do all speak with tongues? Do all interpret? 31 But earnestly desire the higher gifts.

And I will show you a still more excellent way.

1 Corinthians 12

- unity in diversity (Trinity in vv. 4-6)
- doctrine of vocation - God's sovereignty over our individual callings
- body of Christ
 - "I don't belong." (v. 14-20)
 - "I don't need you." (vv. 21-26)

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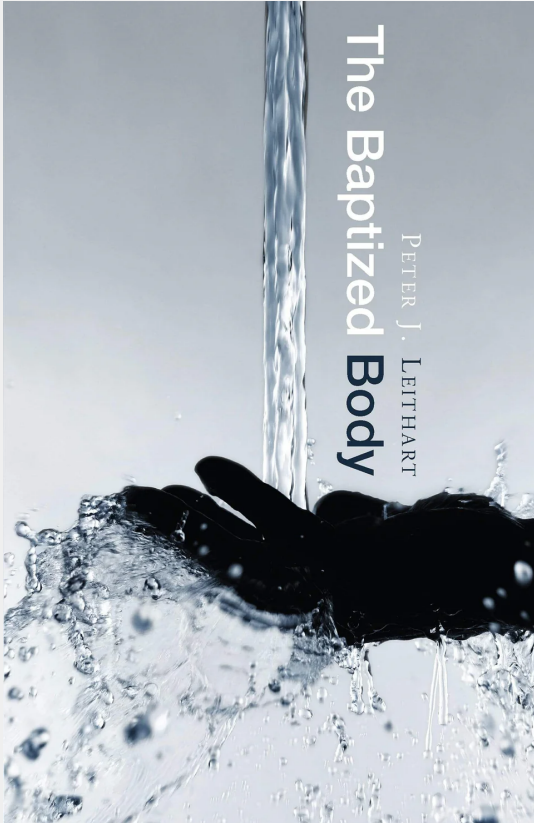
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1 Corinthians 12 - prohibitions

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Leithart - The Baptized Body (2007)



- for digging deeper into the meaning of "we were all baptized into one body" in 1 Cor 12
- a biblical theology of baptism, in the context of Reformed debates about the Federal Vision.
- The body of Christ is the "visible" church.
- Baptism is the initiation rite that brings us into the body of Christ and joins us to Christ himself, the head.
- Some who are joined to Christ eventually fall away.

united with each other through Christ

For as many of you as were baptized into Christ have put on Christ. There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, there is no male and female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus. [Gal 3:27-28]

The cup of blessing that we bless, is it not a participation in the blood of Christ? The bread that we break, is it not a participation in the body of Christ? Because there is one bread, we who are many are one body, for we all partake of the one bread. [1Cor 10:16-17]

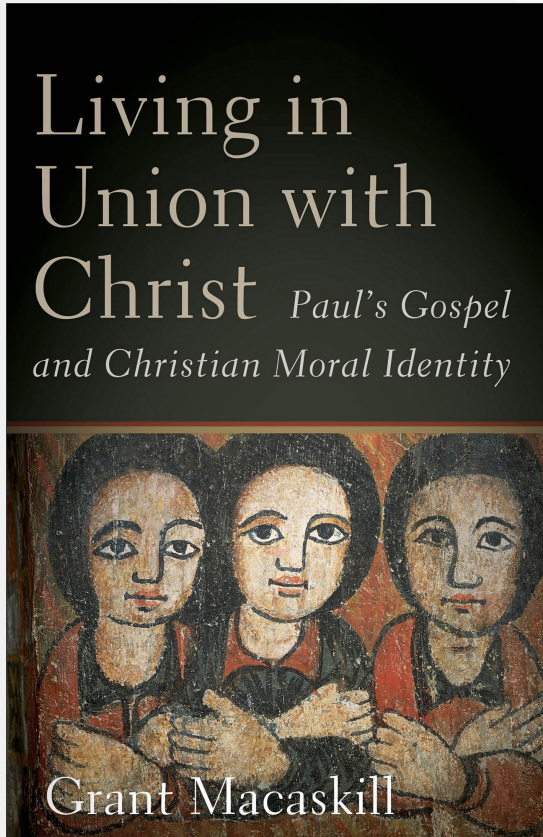
... that they may all be one, just as you, Father, are in me, and I in you, that they also may be in us, so that the world may believe that you have sent me. The glory that you have given me I have given to them, that they may be one even as we are one, I in them and you in me, that they may become perfectly one, so that the world may know that you sent me and loved them even as you loved me. [John 17:20-23]

life together in the body of Christ (excerpts)

... with all humility and gentleness, with patience, bearing with one another in love, eager to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. There is one body and one Spirit - just as you were called to the one hope that belongs to your call - one Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God and Father of all, who is over all and through all and in all. [Eph 4:2-6]

... Here there is not Greek and Jew, circumcised and uncircumcised, barbarian, Scythian, slave, free; but Christ is all, and in all. Put on then, as God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, compassionate hearts, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience, bearing with one another and, if one has a complaint against another, forgiving each other; as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive. And above all these put on love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony. And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in one body. And be thankful. Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly, teaching and admonishing one another in all wisdom, singing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, with thankfulness in your hearts to God. ... [Col 3:11-16]

Macaskill - Living in Union With Christ (2019)



"If we lose sight of union with Christ as the basis for all Christian identity ... we will begin to redefine unity as something that emerges from our doctrinal agreement or ecclesial practices. Then we begin to subdivide the body. We need to remind ourselves of the shocking truth that those with whom we disagree are as united to Jesus Christ in the body of Christ as we are. That doesn't make it any less important that we argue about what constitutes good theology or good Christian practice. Actually, it makes it more important, because it is driven by love for fellow believers." (p. 140)

overall feedback

Content

- helpful? relevant?
- survey-style overview vs. more in-depth treatment of narrower topics
- disagreements? alternative perspectives or emphases?

Format

- introductory question
- fast pace
- sharing our stories at the end of every class

our stories

My Story

- fellowship, small groups
- work culture - engineering/manufacturing, Myers-Briggs, interviewing
- "discerning the body" during worship

Your Stories

- Share a way you've benefited from being a member of the body of Christ.
- How conscious are you of the connection you have with others in Christ?
- Have you ever felt like you didn't belong in a church or other Christian group? Have you ever wished that someone else wasn't a member of a church or group you were in? Do the texts we read today affect your thinking about this?