

Ecclesiology Series - **The Church: Identity**

Pastor Bryan Keith Dugger - 3/12/2017



I. **Identity Crises**

II. **The Body Of Christ**

1st Corinthians 12

v. 12-14

Unity

v. 24-27

Equality

v. 28-31

Diversity

III. **Life Together**

Personal Reflection

Take time this week to pray & respond to the following:

Knowing who you are is an essential part of being a happy, secure & involved member of society. It is likely that much of your identity is defined by the relationships, ideas & activities that occupy your time & consume your energy. Identity is important because it enables you to have a sense of purpose & belonging in this complex world. In the same way that individuals need a sense of identity, so too does the Church.

The Bible reveals many names to describe the Church—Bride of Christ, God's Heritage, Assembly of the Saints, etc. One of the most meaningful & revealing names for the Church is the "Body of Christ." This name is powerful because it communicates the unity, equality & diversity of the many parts that comprise the whole of God's family. The Body of Christ is God's physical presence in the world throughout the Church age.

There are forces in the world that are actively trying to undermine the message & mission of the Church. Be encouraged! The Body of Christ will not be forsaken nor will it be overcome by its enemies. It is imperative that the Church not lose sight of its identity in these trying times.

Are you a member of the Body of Christ? Have you known the joy that comes from being a part of God's family? Are you experiencing life together with your Christian brethren—serving & being served in accordance with God's will?

Prayerfully ask God to deepen your involvement & commitment to His Church. Thank God for making you unique & for giving a place in His family. Commit to regularly pray for the strength & growth of God's Church in accordance with His perfect will.