

ZOOM STUDY: IMPORTANT BIBLICAL TERMS

BODY OF CHRIST

1.) What do you find most amazing about the human body?

2.) How does one become part of Christ's body?

1 Corinthians 12:13 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.

Ephesians 3:6 This mystery is that through the gospel the Gentiles are heirs together with Israel, members together of one body, and sharers together in the promise in Christ Jesus.

3.) What does it mean to be part of the body of Christ?

Ephesians 4:15 We will in all things grow up into him who is the Head, that is, Christ.

Romans 12:5 In Christ we who are many form one body, and each member belongs to all the others.

1 Corinthians 10:16-17 Is not the cup of thanksgiving for which we give thanks a participation in the blood of Christ? And is not the bread that we break a participation in the body of Christ? Because there is one loaf, we, who are many, are one body, for we all partake of the one loaf.

4.) Why is Christ called the "head of the church"?

Colossians 1:18a [Christ] is the head of the body, the church.

Colossians 2:19 He has lost connection with the Head, from whom the whole body, supported and held together by its ligaments and sinews, grows as God causes it to grow.

Ephesians 5:23 ...Christ is the head of the church, his body, of which he is the Savior.

Ephesians 4:11-13,15-16 It was he who gave some to be apostles, some to be prophets, some to be evangelists, and some to be pastors and teachers, ¹² to prepare God's people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up ¹³ until we all reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of the Son of God and become mature, attaining to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ. ...Speaking the truth in love, we will in all things grow up into him who is the Head, that is, Christ. ¹⁶ From him the whole body, joined and held together by every supporting ligament, grows and builds itself up in love, as each part does its work.

5.) What is the purpose of our being joined to Christ and each other? (cf. previous passage)

6.) Physically maturing bodies need to grow outwardly and inwardly. How can you personally promote the outward (visible, quantitative) growth of the Christian church? (cf. question #2) How can you foster the inward (qualitative, invisible) growth of the church?

Colossians 3:15-16 Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, since as members of one body you were called to peace. And be thankful. Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly as you teach and admonish one another with all wisdom, and as you sing psalms, hymns and spiritual songs with gratitude in your hearts to God.

7.) Perhaps you are discouraged by how “little” you can do for Jesus. How does membership in the church comfort you and transform your outlook?

1 Corinthians 12:14-20, 22-24 Now the body is not made up of one part but of many. ¹⁵ If the foot should say, “Because I am not a hand, I do not belong to the body,” it would not for that reason cease to be part of the body. ¹⁶ And if the ear should say, “Because I am not an eye, I do not belong to the body,” it would not for that reason cease to be part of the body. ¹⁷ If the whole body were an eye, where would the sense of hearing be? If the whole body were an ear, where would the sense of smell be? ¹⁸ But in fact God has arranged the parts in the body, every one of them, just as he wanted them to be. ¹⁹ If they were all one part, where would the body be? ²⁰ As it is, there are many parts, but one body. ...²² On the contrary, those parts of the body that seem to be weaker are indispensable, ²³ and the parts that we think are less honorable we treat with special honor. And the parts that are unpresentable are treated with special modesty, ²⁴ while our presentable parts need no special treatment. But God has combined the members of the body and has given greater honor to the parts that lacked it.

1 Corinthians 4:2 It is required that those who have been given a trust must prove faithful.

8.) Suppose you were tempted to boast over what you can do for Jesus. How does membership in Christ’s body undercut your pride?

Romans 12:6 We have different gifts, according to the grace given us.

Ephesians 4:7 To each one of us grace has been given as Christ apportioned it.

1 Corinthians 12:4-7 There are different kinds of gifts, but the same Spirit. ⁵ There are different kinds of service, but the same Lord. ⁶ There are different kinds of working, but the same God works all of them in all men. ⁷ Now to each one the manifestation of the Spirit is given for the common good.

1 Corinthians 12:17 If the whole body were an eye, where would the sense of hearing be? If the whole body were an ear, where would the sense of smell be?

9.) What external things do the devil, world, and our flesh use to divide us? How does membership in Jesus’ body counteract such lies and attacks?

10.) How do members of our congregation’s body cut themselves off from the head? What can we do about it?

Colossians 2:18-19a Do not let anyone who delights in false humility and the worship of angels disqualify you for the prize. Such a person goes into great detail about what he has seen, and his unspiritual mind puffs him up with idle notions. He has lost connection with the Head.

Galatians 5:4 You who are trying to be justified by law have been alienated from Christ; you have fallen away from grace.

Romans 11:23 If they do not persist in unbelief, they will be grafted in, for God is able to graft them in again.

Closing Prayer: Savior Jesus, head of your Church, we adore you for graciously incorporating us into your body and gifting us to serve you and each other. Through your Word and the bonds of love strengthen our connection to one another so that we can all serve one another better, and your body will grow in every way. Amen.

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