

# **THE ONE BODY OF EPHESIANS**

**Eph.4:4-6**

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## **I. INTRODUCTION**

1. Eph.4:4-6 speaks of seven things in the singular; that there is one and only one of each of these things or persons: There is: one body; one Spirit; one hope; one Lord; one faith; one baptism; one God and Father of all.
2. In this sermon we shall study the “one body,” by calling our attention to some basic things the N.T., especially the Book of Ephesians, teaches, plainly and emphatically affirms, about the “one body.”

## **II. DISCUSSION**

### **A. THE ONE BODY IS THE CHURCH.**

1. According to Eph.1:22,23, the church is the body.
2. According to Col.1:18,24, the body is the church.
3. Therefore, the body and the church are one and the same.
4. Since, according to Eph.4:4 there is but one body just as there is but one Spirit, one Lord, and one God and Father of all; and since the body is the church, there is, therefore, just one church.
5. That one church, of necessity, must be the church belonging to the Lord which he promised to build according to Mt.16:13-18.
6. It must be the one church he purchased with his own blood according to Ac.20:28. Cf. 1Cor.6:20; 1Pet.1:18-20.

### **B. THE ONE BODY WHICH IS THE CHURCH HAS JESUS CHRIST AS ITS HEAD.**

1. According to Eph.1:22,23, the Father “hath put all things under his (that is, Christ’s) feet, and gave him to be the head over all things to the church...which is his body...”
2. According to Eph.5:23, “...Christ is the head of the church...”
3. Also, according to Col.1:18, Christ “is the head of the body, the church...”

4. “Metaphorically, “head” means anything *supreme, chief, prominent*; of persons, *master*, lord,” Thayer, 345.
  - a. Thus, according to Eph.5:23,24, the one church, which is the one body, is subject unto Christ in all things.
  - b. Cf. Mt.28:18; Eph.1:19-23; 1Pet.1:22; Ac.2:36.

**C. THE ONE BODY WHICH IS THE CHURCH IS WHERE MEN ARE RECONCILED UNTO THE ONE GOD AND FATHER OF ALL.**

1. Eph.2:16-19 declare that “in Jesus Christ,” and “in one body,” “by the blood of Christ,” or “by the cross,”
  - a. “Ye who were far off are made nigh”
  - b. Both Jew and Gentile are “reconciled unto God.”
  - c. “Both have access...unto the Father,” and are “of the household of God.”
2. Sin is the one and only thing that can and does separate and alienate us from God, Isa.59:1,2; Col.1:21a; Jas.4:4. Cf. Rom.8:35-39; Heb.13:5,6.
3. The making of peace with God or being reconciled to God is made possible in and through the cross, or the death, of Jesus Christ, and in his body, the church, according to 2Cor.5:17-20; Eph.2:16-19; Col.1:19-23.

**D. THE ONE BODY WHICH IS THE CHURCH CONTAINS ALL THE SAVED, OR IS THE BODY OF THE SAVED.**

1. According to Ac.2:47 the Lord adds the saved, all the saved, to the church, and that when they are saved.
2. How sinners are saved and divinely added to the church as a result is revealed in Ac.2:21,36-42,47.
3. Only those who believe and obey the gospel are promised salvation, and/or will be saved and added to the church, Mk.16:15,16; 1Pet.4:17,18 (Cf. Ac.14:21,22); 2Th.1:6-10; Cf. Ac.22:16; 18:8 (1Cor.15:1,2).
4. Therefore, In Christ and in the one body, which is the church, is where salvation is, 2Tim.2:10; Ac.2:47.
5. Moreover, only by water baptism preceded by faith, repentance and confession of faith in Jesus Christ does one enter Christ and the one body where salvation is found, Rom.6:3-6; Gal.3:26,27;

1Cor.12:12,13; Ac.2:36-42,47; Ac.8:35-38; Ac.22:16;  
Rom.10:9-17.

**E. THE ONE BODY WHICH IS THE CHURCH IS TO BE UNITED IN SPEECH, DOCTRINE AND PRACTICE.**

1. 1Cor.1:10-13.
2. 1Cor.3:1-4.
3. 1Cor.12:12-25.
4. 2Jno.9-11.
5. Therefore, one of the great pleas of the N.T. is the plea for unity of believers – of the followers of Jesus Christ.
  - a. It was and is the plea of Jesus himself, Jno.17:6,8,14,18, 20,21. Cf. Jno.12:48-50; Heb.1:1-3; Mt.28:18.
    - (1) Since the Father and the Son are one in faith, doctrine and practice.
    - (2) Since they teach that all believers should be as they are: one in faith, doctrine and practice.
    - (3) How can we in good faith justify “the faith of your choice,” or “the church of your choice” so commonly believed and practiced in our day!
  - b. This Bible plea for unity for which Jesus prayed is the plea made by the apostles of Jesus Christ, 1Cor.1:10-13; Eph.4:1-6; 1Jno.4:1,6; Mt.18:18; 2Cor.5:17-20; Mt.28:18-20.

**III. CONCLUSION**

1. Do you claim to believe the Bible as God’s word to man? If you do, you should honestly, sincerely seek to understand and to believe what the N.T. says about the one body, which is the church belonging to Christ and of which he is the head and Savior.
2. Are you presently a member of this one body, which is the church? If not, and you believe, you are invited to come answering the Lord’s invitation to obey the gospel, be saved and be added to his church, the body of the saved.
3. If you do believe, why not now? Why do you wait?