

# The Body of Christ

---

---

# Welcome to the Body!

---

One of the magnificent creations of God is the Body of Christ. In His wisdom, God did not create us to be have relationship with Him independent of others. Instead, He created us to be interdependent with one another.

Here are some of the topics we are going to study:

- ❖ You are part of the Body.
- ❖ You need the Body and the Body needs you!
- ❖ God works through His body.
- ❖ It is through His Body that we complete His will: Worshiping Him, ministering to others and reaching the Lost

Much of what the Bible says about the Body of Christ is in 1 Corinthians 12, as follows:



# 1 Corinthians 12, 12-27

---

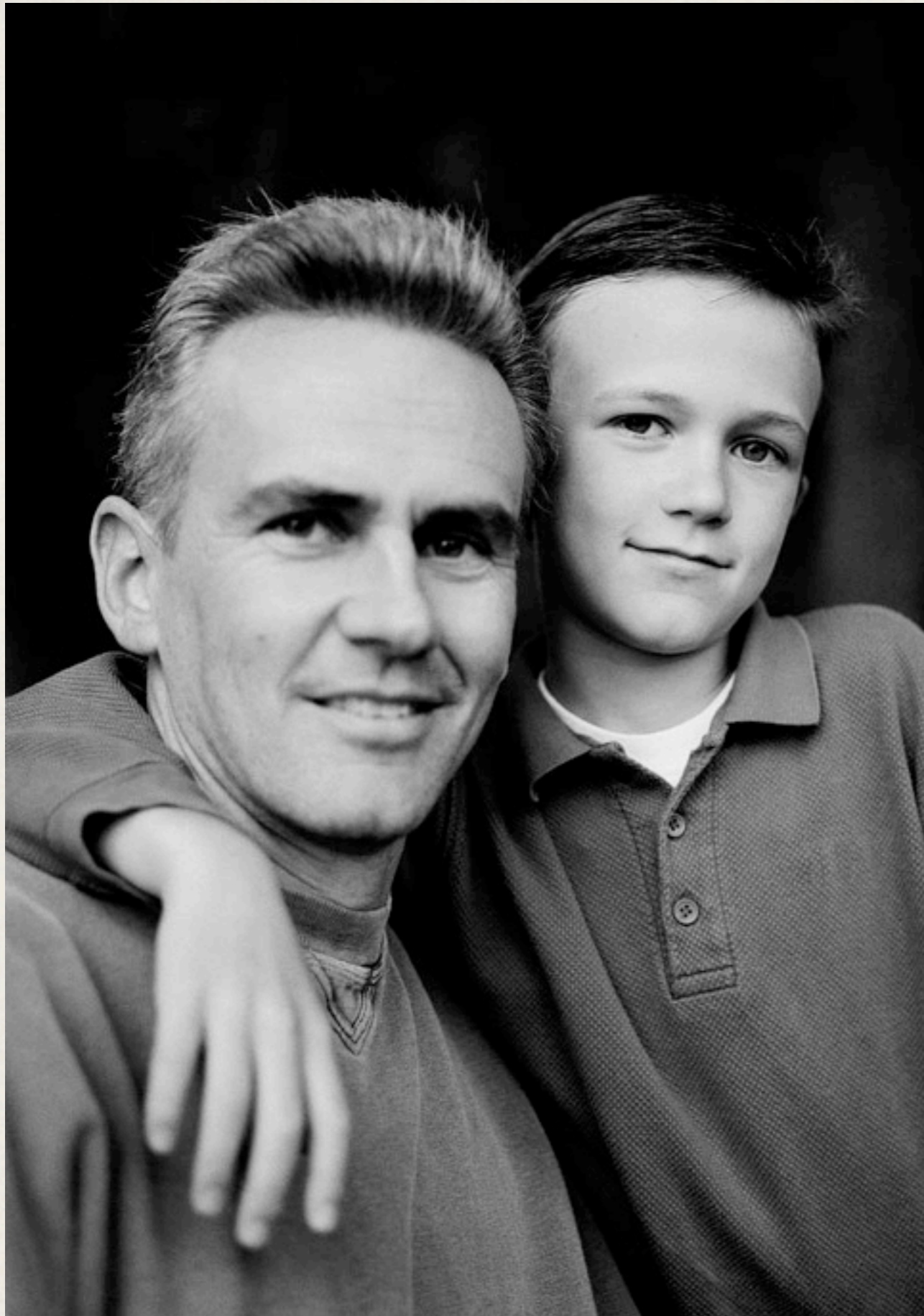
12: For just as the body is one and has many members, and all the members of the body, though many, are one body, so it is with Christ.

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. 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. 27: Now you are the body of Christ and individually members of it.

Important tip! Many people have difficulty knowing where they belong in the Body of Christ. The answer is that you should ask God and let Him lead you by His Spirit. Verse 13 says that the Holy Spirit baptizes us into His body. Verse 18 says that God places us in His body according to His will. Do not judge by appearances! Pray and seek God. The Holy Spirit will make it clear where you belong!



# You are an important part of the Body of Christ!

What is very clear in this passage that every person is important to the Body of Christ! As an example, Paul compares the Body of Christ to our own personal bodies.

What comes to our mind when we think about someone's physical makeup? Their face? Their height? The color of their hair? Yes, these are distinguishing characteristics. But what about their kidneys? What about their lungs and their heart? Are these also not important, and even more so?! How can the body move without its feet? How can it breath without its lungs?

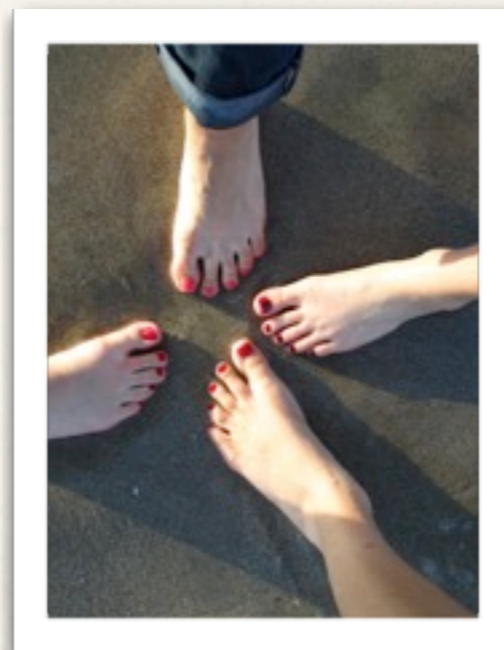
Everyone is important in the body of Christ. Everyone is important. Everyone is indispensable.

And sometimes we might think because someone has a particular role, he is more important than someone else. Or that we are less important.

But just like the body is made up of different parts, the body of Christ is made up of different parts. And each one is important and special!

The Body is not made up just  
of feet!

---



And aren't you glad!

# You need the Body!

The next important concept is that you need the body! No one is complete in themselves. You have what others need. Others have what you need. Paul clearly brings this out in Romans 12,4-8.

For as in one body we have many members, and the members do not all have the same function,

so we, though many, are one body in Christ, and individually members one of another.

Having gifts that differ according to the grace given to us, let us use them: if prophecy, in proportion to our faith;

if service, in our serving; the one who teaches, in his teaching;

one who exhorts, in his exhortation; the one who contributes, in generosity; the one who leads, with zeal; the one who does acts of mercy, with cheerfulness.

Jesus had all of the above gifts! He was a prophet, teacher, servant, leader and so on. Not one of us has every gift. But together, we do! Together, we make up the body of Christ!



## And the Body needs you!!

God works through His Body

---

# Ephesians 1,22-23

22) And He put all things under His feet and gave Him as head over all things to the church,

23) which is His body, the fullness of Him who fills all in all.

When Jesus was here on the earth, He walked about in a body, doing the will of His Father and ministering to the people. He was empowered to do these things by the Holy Spirit.

It is the same today! Jesus still has a body, and the Body is us, born again believers! He walks about in His body, doing the will of the Father, ministering to people, through the power of the Holy Spirit.

# Ephesians 4,11-12

11) And He gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the shepherds and teachers,

12) to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ...

While God saves and works with individuals, He places them in His body, first to be nurtured, and to join with others to perform His purposes.

Here in Ephesians 4:11 Paul explains that God gave us ministers: Apostles, prophets, evangelists, pastors & teachers. And we all know why! To teach us, lead us, bless us and equip us.

Verse 12 explains the purpose of the nurturing: That the body of Christ would carry out the purposes God has for the Church.



# The Three-fold Purpose of the Body

---

# \*Three-fold Purpose of the Body

---

- ❖ Worship God
- ❖ Minister to One Another
- ❖ Reach the Lost



\*The following pages summarize the three-fold purpose of the Church. More lessons will follow for each separate theme.

# We Worship God

---

The church, i.e., the body of Christ, has a very special role in the eyes of God because God does not dwell in physical buildings! Born again believers are the church. Believers are temple of God!

The Most High doesn't live in temples made by human hands. Acts 7,48 (NLT)

And what takes place in temples? Worship!

Don't you realize that all of you together are the temple of God and that the Spirit of God lives in you? 1 Corinthians 3,16 (NLT)

You yourselves like living stones are being built up as a spiritual house, to be a holy priesthood, to offer spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ.

But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for his own possession, that you may proclaim the excellencies of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light. 1 Peter 2, 5 & 9

Together, we are his house, built on the foundation of the apostles and the prophets. And the cornerstone is Christ Jesus himself. We are carefully joined together in him, becoming a holy temple for the Lord. Through him you Gentiles are also being made part of this dwelling where God lives by his Spirit. Ephesians 2,20-22 (NLT)

# We Minister One to Another

The Church, i.e. the Body of Christ, is also the means God ordained to minister to individual believers. God works through individuals to care for individuals. Here are just a few of the Scriptures:

Minister the gift you received to others

1 Peter 4,10

Restore those who fall

Galatians 6, 1 & 2

The Body builds up itself in love

Ephesians 4,16

Support the weak

Romans 15,1

Visit the fatherless and widows

James 1,27

Make disciples and teach them

Matthew 28,20

# One...Another

God wants us to take our relationship seriously with "One Another!" Here are some Scriptures that specifically tell us how we should treat "One Another!"

Love one another

John 13,34

Be kindly  
affectionate one to  
another

Romans 12,10

In honor preferring  
one another

Romans 12,10

Not judging one  
another

Romans 14,13

Receive one another

Romans 15,7

Admonish one  
another

Romans 15,14

# One...Another

Greet one another

Romans 16,16

Serve one another

Galatians 5,13

Forbear one another  
in love

Ephesians 4,2

Be kind one to  
another

Ephesians 4,32

Forgive one another

Ephesians 4,32

Comfort one  
another

1 Thessalonians  
4,18

Exhort one another

Hebrews 3,13

Pray for one  
another

James 5,16



*We reach the Lost*

---

---

# Go into all the World....

---

The very last thing that Jesus instructed His disciples before He returned to heaven, was for them to spread the Gospel throughout the world.

“But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.” Acts 1,8

And whose responsibility is it? Everyone in the Body of Christ.

“Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you.”  
Matthew 28, 19-20

In fact, this is the reason why God filled us with the Holy Spirit, that we would receive the power to witness.

All this is from God, who through Christ reconciled us to himself and gave us the ministry of reconciliation. 2 Corinthians 5,18



# Go into all the World....

---



Every one of us in the Body of Christ has been given this task: to tell others of the love that God has for them: that He died for their sins, and desires to save them and bless them and have a relationship with them.

We should both those who live near us, and those who live on the other side of the world.

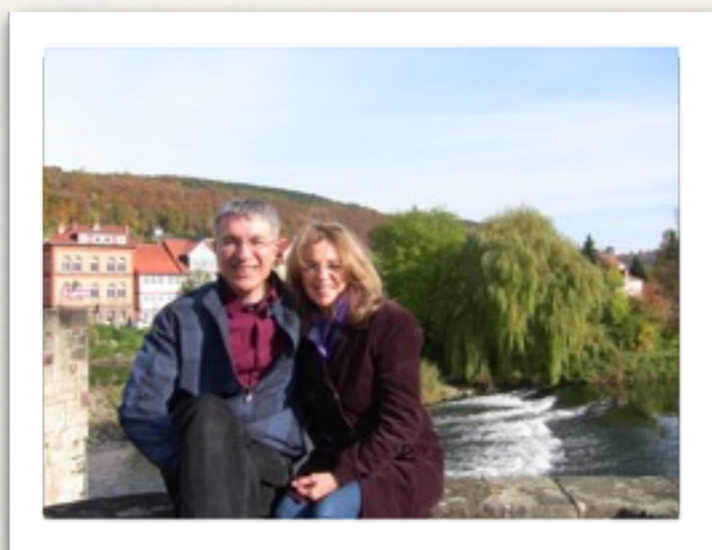


# Go into all the World....

---

And maybe you personally cannot "Go into all the World." God has not called everyone to go! But you can be involved by helping send someone who has gone.

Everyone should have at least one missionary whom they support. If you do not, please prayerfully consider supporting us, Bob & Linda Arnold. We are missionaries to Germany and are the authors of this website which you are now visiting, Faith-without-Walls.com. We have served the Lord here in Germany since 2005, and are dependent upon donations from friends like you. Our ministry is called B & L Ministries, Inc. All donations are tax deductible (USA).



You can give by visiting this page on our website:  
<http://www.faith-without-walls.com/invest-in-the-gospel.html>  
Thank you!

# Our responsibility to the Body

---

# Our responsibility to the Body

---



- ❖ Be an active part of a local church.
- ❖ Support the church with tithes and offerings.
- ❖ Serve in the church with what God has given you.
- ❖ Be active in reaching the Lost.
- ❖ Be submitted to godly authority.

Many people are deceived into thinking they do not have to be an active part of a local church. I challenge you to carefully study the truths we have shared:

- 1) You are part of the Body.
- 2) You need the Body and the Body needs you.
- 3) God works through His Body.
- 4) The Body of Christ is God's Temple where we worship.
- 5) It is His means to minister to His people.
- 6) It is the way He evangelizes the Lost.

“Unless otherwise noted, Scripture quotations are from The Holy Bible, English Standard Version<sup>®</sup> (ESV<sup>®</sup>), copyright © 2001 by Crossway, a publishing ministry of Good News Publishers. Used by permission. All rights reserved.”

Scripture quotations marked (NLT) are taken from the Holy Bible, New Living Translation, copyright © 1996, 2004, 2007 by Tyndale House Foundation. Used by permission of Tyndale House Publishers, Inc., Carol Stream, Illinois 60188. All rights reserved.

© 2013 Robert Arnold