

“One Body”
Weekly Recap

We began with the passage from last week, Ephesians 4:1-6:

*As a prisoner for the Lord, then, I urge you to **live a life worthy** of the calling you have received. Be completely humble and gentle; be patient, bearing with **one** another in love. Make every effort to keep the **unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace**. There is **one** body and **one** Spirit, just as you were called to **one** hope when you were called; **one** Lord, **one** faith, **one** baptism; **one** God and Father of all, who is over all and through all and in all.*

We then looked briefly at Ephesians 4:7-10. At first glance, this seems to be an odd discussion between verses 8-10, but Paul is reminding us of the importance of the bodily resurrection. After that, he discusses the body in detail in chapter 4:11-16:

*So Christ himself gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the pastors and teachers, to equip his people for works of service, so that the **body of Christ** may be built up 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**. Then we will no longer be infants, tossed back and forth by the waves, and blown here and there by every wind of teaching and by the cunning and craftiness of people in their deceitful scheming. Instead, speaking the truth in love, we will grow to become in every respect the **mature body of him who is the head, that is, Christ**. 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.*

There are four main points to make about what Paul says about the One Body:

Purpose- To be the incarnated body of the Resurrected King.

Works of Service

Unity of Faith

Knowledge of the Son—the embodiment of Jesus is our witness to “One Lord”.

I Corinthians 11:24 KJV: “This is my body, which is broken for you.”

Textual issues. Earliest manuscripts. **Was** his body broken? yes and no. **Is** his body broken, yes and no.

Growth

Growth “in every respect” into the Body of Christ.

Growth in Love.

“Every Supporting Ligament grows and builds itself up”- Individual and collective.

All parts growing in the same direction “joined and held together”. Not all growths are good.

Fullness

“Whole measure of the fullness of Christ” – Remember what Jared read from Ephesians 3:14-19 last week:

For this reason I kneel before the Father, from whom every family in heaven and on earth derives its name. I pray that out of his glorious riches he may strengthen you with power through his Spirit in your inner being, so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith. And I pray that you, being rooted and established in love, may have power, together with all the Lord's holy people, to grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ, and to know this love that surpasses knowledge—that you may be filled to the measure of all the fullness of God.

Collective and individual “wholeness”. We will discuss this more later, but for now we need to know that we are made complete in Jesus, by Jesus. We are not a collection of people that complete each other. We are completely whole, and joined together to reach the full measure of the wholeness of Jesus Christ”.

The parts of the body we neglect are the parts of us that become the crisis. Like cars. The older we get the more we realize the importance of the suspension and exhaust systems.

Maturity

(v 14) Then we will no longer be infants, tossed back and forth by the waves, and blown here and there by every wind of teaching and by the cunning and craftiness of people in their deceitful scheming.

Strength (Perseverance in James 1)

Tomato Plants. We dug a small hole for the roots ball, but also a small trench to bury the long stem almost to the top. This is so it can root out all along the stem and be more stable in the winds and rain. We are often covered in the “dirt” life throws at us and that may be the best time to send down new root growth.

Role:

Holiday meal participation. We revisited the Solo Cup analogy.

Participation in fullness. We often struggle to fill all the roles needed to function as a whole.

What if other parts of the body all functioned at the effort level we do? (Skattebo of Arizona State)

Comfortable in our Own Skin:

Contentment in the Body God gave you. We know these people. Beautiful testimonies to the fullness of Jesus in the flesh. "Just something about them."

Contentment to be used fully. Contentment to be "used up in God's service". Content, but NOT Complacent.

Conclusion: Our Bodies Matter Greatly to God.

I Corinthians 6:20- "...You were bought at a price, therefore honor God with your body".

Romans 12:1- "In view of God's mercy...offer your bodies as a living sacrifice"

Get out your phones:

Help each other...everyone in the picture.

What do you see?

Matthew 22:15-21:

Then the Pharisees went out and laid plans to trap him in his words. They sent their disciples to him along with the Herodians. "Teacher," they said, "we know that you are a man of integrity and that you teach the way of God in accordance with the truth. You aren't swayed by others, because you pay no attention to who they are. Tell us then, what is your opinion? Is it right to pay the imperial tax to Caesar or not?" But Jesus, knowing their evil intent, said, "You hypocrites, why are you trying to trap me? Show me the coin used for paying the tax." They brought him a denarius, and he asked them, "Whose image is this? And whose inscription?" "Caesar's," they replied. Then he said to them, "So give back to Caesar what is Caesar's, and to God what is God's."

Look at your phones again. What do you see? **Whose image is this? And whose inscription?"**

"Render unto Caesar that which is Caesar's, and render unto God that which is God's."