

Theme Effective Priests and Kings

Topic We are One Body Speaker Elder Goh Hock Chye

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## **Spiritual Objective: Committing into the Body of Christ**

The speaker begins by reminding us of how Paul compared the community of believers to a physical body in 1 Corinthians 12. Just as a physical body needs all its different parts to function, the community of believers need to live intertwined lives so that all may help each other grow in knowledge, faith, hope, love and Christ-likeness.

A similar analogy might be that of a master weaver gathering individual threads to be woven together, interlocking with each other to slowly but eventually produce a colourful masterpiece through the hands of the master. The key question is: Are we willing to be that single thread in the colourful tapestry so as to play a part in God's grand design?

In this message, the speaker reminds us of what it means to be the Body of Christ and how important it is that we are all plugged in and fully committed to being a part of that body.

# 4 Messages on the Body of Christ

#### 1) We are the Body of Christ.

We are joined and held together by Christ, our Head, and we are to grow and build ourselves up in love as we grow into Christ-likeness. (Eph 4:15-16)

### 2) Four Characteristics of the Body of Christ:

- a. <u>Unity</u> Just as one body has many parts, but its many parts form one body, so it is with Christ. (1 Cor 12:12) We need to make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace. (Eph 4:3)
- b. <u>Diversity</u> God has placed each part in the body, every one of them, just as He wanted them to be. If they were all one part, where would the body be? As it is, there are many parts, but one body. (1 Cor 12:18-20)
- c. <u>Harmony</u> There should be no division in the body, but its parts should have equal concern for each other. If one part suffers, every part suffers with it; if one part is honoured, every part rejoices with it. (1 Cor 12:25-26)
- d. Maturity We will grow to become the mature body of Him who is the Head,



Christ. From Him, the whole body is joined and held together, grows and builds itself up in love, as each part does its work. (Eph 4:15-16)

### 3) Three Enemies to the Body of Christ:

- a. <u>Personal Agenda</u> When there is a personal agenda threatening to usurp the agenda of the Body of Christ, we must bring it to light.
- b. <u>Pride</u> When pride is an issue, we should repent, pray and ask for forgiveness. It is pride that says, "I do not need you", and it is pride behind the sense of unworthiness that says, "I have nothing to offer".
- c. <u>Misunderstandings</u> When misunderstandings surface, as they will whenever people are involved, then we need to clarify. In this age of technology, it is often advisable to seek to clarify face to face, and not just through faceless channels.

But take heart, for we are held together by the same Spirit, the same Lord, the same God, the same purpose, and the same baptism into this same body. (1 Cor 12:4-13)

What holds us together is stronger than what can potentially tear us apart, so we ought to keep unity, embrace diversity, live in harmony, and grow together in maturity, that we might showcase to the world the beautiful bride of Christ!

#### 4) Three Reasons Why We Need Each Other:

- a) We need you The body is not complete until all its parts are present. It can still survive, but it would not be complete.
- b) You need us A part of the body is dead unless it is attached to the rest of the body. No part of the body can survive outside of the body. There outside, it has no use and no life.
- c) <u>Life will flow through the body</u> And this is the glory of it all: so long as each part is plugged into the body, not only does it serve the body, but by the very virtue of being in the body, its own needs are met. Life flows through the body to the individual parts, and also, through the individual parts to the world.

Come, commit yourself fully into the body of Christ. So that life, which comes from Christ, the Head of the body, can flow through the body, into you, and turn your life around.

Member's Guide 2





Why do we need to be plugged into the body of Christ? What do you think will / should happen when you are fully committed into the Body of Christ?

(Fill In Answer Here)

From your experiences as a Christian, share how you have experienced either/or:

- .) the enemies of the body life
- ii.) why we need each other

\*Do take care not to mention names or any specific events – this sharing is meant to help you identify with the sermon and to encourage your cell group in their walk with God in BBTC.

(Fill In Answer Here)

What can you do, personally or as a CG, to help meet some of your own, or others' expectations of the Body of Christ?

(Fill In Answer Here)

Member's Guide