

# The Body of Christ

Unity, Diversity, Respect, Need, Purpose and Love





## **Worship the Lord**

### **Be Thou My Vision**

#### **Verse 1**

Be Thou my vision, O Lord of my heart  
Naught be all else to me save that Thou art  
Thou my best thought by day or by night  
Waking or sleeping, Thy presence my light

#### **Verse 2**

Be Thou my wisdom, and Thou my true Word  
I ever with Thee and Thou with me, Lord  
Thou my great Fa—ther, I Thy true son  
Thou in me dwelling, and I with Thee one



Verse 3

Riches I heed not nor man's empty praise  
Thou mine inheritance, now and always  
Thou and Thou on—ly, first in my heart  
High King of Heaven, my treasure Thou art

Verse 4

High King of Heaven, my Victory won  
May I reach heaven's joys, bright heaven's Sun  
Heart of my own heart, whatever befall  
Still be my vision, O ruler of all

Dallan Forgaill (8th Century), ccli#136928

Hymn 562, Four Verses, Key of Eb, Capo 1



**Let us hear the Word spoken...**

## Psalm 45: Fairest of All

My heart burst at its banks, spilling with beauty and good - ness  
I pour it out as a song to my King, shaping the rivers into wor - ds

What grace pours from Your lips, the sound calls the midnight to morn - ing  
The melody turns my winter to spring, I echo it now in my wor - ship  
I echo it now in my wor - ship

Ten thousand strong, You're the fairest of all, fairest in heaven and ea - rth  
Of the children of men, You're the fairest of them, fairest in heaven and ea - rth

Your heart burst at the seams, flowing with blood and with wa - ter  
A song of love pouring out from the tree singing, for the joy set be - fore me  
For the joy set be - fore me

Ten thousand strong, You're the fairest of all, fairest in heaven and ea - rth  
Of the children of men, You're the fairest of them, fairest in heaven and ea - rth

You ransomed Your bride on the day that You died  
A - scended to heaven in glo - ry  
She stands clothed in white with her head lifted high  
Singing, come and return in Your glo - ry  
Original in E / Capo 3, Key of Bb





**Let us Devote ourselves to the Word**

## The Body of Christ

Different NT Passages

- **1 Corinthians 12:12-27** / *focuses on unity + diversity*
  - 1 Corinthian's focus = fixing a damaged church
- **Ephesians 4:11-16** / *focuses on equipping Body to maturity*
  - Ephesian's focus = how to build up the body, the church
- **Colossians 1:24-29** / *focus on making Christ (Word) known*
  - Colossian's focus = how to make Christ pre-eminent

# The Body of Christ

Respecting each other, needing each other, loving each other

RLM

## Review

Hebrews 10 / If Jesus was the High Priest  
and made a way to God truly possible...

Let us **draw near** to God!

Let us **hold fast** to the hope of our  
confession!

Let us **consider** how we can stir each other  
up to love and good deeds!



**Head = Christ**

## The Body of Christ

**Various Parts = people = His Possession, His**

## The Head of the Body

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And he is **the head** of the body, the church. He is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, that in everything he might be **preeminent**. Col 1:18

and not holding fast to **the Head**, from whom the whole body, nourished and knit together through its joints and ligaments, grows with a growth that is from God. Col 2:19

And he put all things under his feet and gave him as **head** over all things to the church, which is his body, the fullness of him who fills all in all. Eph 1:22-23

For the husband is the head of the wife even as Christ is **the head** of the church, his body, and is himself its Savior. Eph 5:23



**Q / What happens when people usurp Jesus' headship in the church?**

**A / Logos AI, focusing on Paul Minear's *Images of the Church in the New Testament***

Invidious distinctions /  
arousing anger and  
resentment

**When people usurp** Jesus' headship in the church, several critical consequences emerge.

Cleavages and **claims of superiority** persist within the church, and the boundary between "the body of flesh" and "the body of Christ" remains **uncrossed** due to a stubborn refusal to accept Christ's victory over "elemental spirits" (ie, the flesh, tradition, legalism).

This means that **societal divisions** are not surrendered, and the church **fails to truly transform** its social practices.

**Instead of being a new creation**, it risks becoming just another competing social group that draws **invidious distinctions** between people.

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**Col 2:8** See to it that no one takes you captive by philosophy and empty deceit, according to human tradition, according to the elemental spirits of the world, and not according to Christ.

**Col 2:20-23** If with Christ you died to the elemental spirits of the world, why, as if you were still alive in the world, do you submit to regulations—"Do not handle, Do not taste, Do not touch" (referring to things that all perish as they are used)—according to human precepts and teachings? These have indeed an appearance of wisdom in promoting self-made religion and asceticism and severity to the body, but they are of no value in stopping the indulgence of the flesh.

**Gal 4:3-9** In the same way we also, when we were children, were enslaved to the elementary principles of the world. But when the fullness of time had come, God sent forth his Son, born of woman, born under the law, to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as sons. And because you are sons, God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, crying, "Abba! Father!" So you are no longer a slave, but a son, and if a son, then an heir through God. Formerly, when you did not know God, you were enslaved to those that by nature are not gods. But now that you have come to know God, or rather to be known by God, how can you turn back again to the weak and worthless elementary principles of the world, whose slaves you want to be once more?

# 1 Corinthians 12

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**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.

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♦ **Notice the Unity** / “one”

♦ **Notice the Diversity** /

♦ **Discussion, What are the implications of this?**

# 1 Corinthians 12

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4 “if” statements

- **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?”

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♦ **Notice two sets, two different supporting points**

# 1 Corinthians 12

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**18** "But as it is, God arranged the members in the body, each one of them, as he chose."

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♦ **We are discussing God's work...**

♦ **Why should we respect others according to this passage? What does that respect look like? Why should they respect you?**

# 1 Corinthians 12

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**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, **24a** which our more presentable parts do not require.

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♦ **Key ideas here? Look and find!**

♦ **Need / Honor**



# 1 Corinthians 12

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**24b** 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.

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♦ **Question** / Why does giving greater honor to those that lack it provide less division?

♦ **Same care** /

♦ **Romans 12:15** / rejoice with those who rejoice, weep with those who weep.

# 1 Corinthians 12

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Notice flow...



**27** "Now you are the body of Christ and individually members of it. **28** And God has appointed in the church first apostles, second prophets, third teachers, then miracles, then gifts of healing, helping, administrating, and various kinds of tongues.

**29** Are all apostles? Are all prophets? Are all teachers? Do all work miracles? **30** Do all possess gifts of healing? Do all speak with tongues? **31** Do all interpret? But earnestly desire the higher gifts.

And I will show you a still **more excellent** way."

**1 Corinthians 13:1-13** / Love...

# 1 Corinthians 12

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v18 / **God arranged** / assigned to a role, task

v18 / **God chose** / "to desire, to want, to wish"

v24 / **God composed\*** / "caused parts to fit together"

v24 / **God gave greater honor** / "worth or merit"

v28 / **God appointed** / same as "arranged" above...

## God Composed...

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**Greek Word:** synkerannymi

just as painters, when they wish to produce an imitation, sometimes use only red, [424e] sometimes some other color, and sometimes **mix** many colors, as when they are making a picture of a man or something of that sort, employing each color, I suppose, as they think the particular picture demands it. In just this way we, too, shall apply letters to things, using one letter for one thing, when that seems to be required, or many letters together, forming syllables, as they are called, and in turn combining syllables, [425a] and by their combination forming nouns and verbs.

Plato, [\*Plato in Twelve Volumes Translated by Harold N. Fowler\*](#), vol. 12 (Medford, MA: Cambridge, MA, Harvard University Press; London, William Heinemann Ltd., 1921).

The New Testament does not envisage solitary religion; some kind of regular assembly for worship and instruction is everywhere taken for granted in the Epistles. So we must be regular practising members of the Church. Of course we differ in temperament. Some (like you—and me) find it more natural to approach God in solitude; but we must go to Church as well.

C.S. Lewis / Letters, 7 December 1950

For the Church is not a human society of people united by their natural affinities but the Body of Christ, in which all members, however different, (*and He rejoices in their differences and by no means wishes to iron them out*) must share the common life, complementing and helping one another precisely by their differences.

C.S. Lewis / Letters, 7 December 1950



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C.S. Lewis / Letters, 7 December 1950



**Prayer**



## Discussion

### Discussion Questions

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1. What do you think the modern church does good?
2. What do you think the modern church fails to do?
3. What do you think "the perfect" church would be doing and emphasizing?
4. What do you want to have in your next church experience that was not in your previous one?

## What is your passion?

- To see people grow in their knowledge + relationship with Christ

First thing } Second thing

- \* Self education - Bible study that is first hand  
to help move people toward this  
less dependence on others -

Spirit } Flesh

- \* To see people move from legalism to Spirit life

Freedom } Control

- \* Equality & Believers as opposed to Authoritarianism.

→ Freedom is Christ

- \* Avoidance - contrary to this

Honesty } fake

- \* Honesty (Real, open) as opposed to performative (fake, closed)  
Faith -

Organism } institution

- \* Moving from institutional  
Purity toward "God's mysterious  
Church" - universal > local