

18 December 2016

The nature of Christ Pt 4 His body, the church.

Scriptures upon which this teaching is founded.

1. God sets believers in Christ, in the body of Christ.

“For by one Spirit are we all baptized into one body...” (1Cor.12: 13). C.P. : – “But now hath God set the members every one of them in the body, as it hath pleased him” (1Cor.12: 18), and “Now ye are the body of Christ, and members in particular” (1Cor.12: 27).

When a lost man believes the gospel of Christ crucified he is “in Christ, he is a new creature” (2Cor.5: 17), he is born again of the Spirit of God (1Pet.1: 22 & 23), and so God sets him in the body of Christ.

2. The church today is the body of Christ.

“And hath put all [things] under his feet, and gave him [to be] the head over all [things] to the church, Which is his body, the fulness of him that filleth all in all” (Eph 1:22 & 23).

The body of Christ today is the church of God. Those outside of the body, even though they meet in a building with the word “church” out front, does not make them a **member** of the body of Christ, and therefore a member of “the church of the living God” (1Tim.3: 15).

3. Christ is head of the church.

“For the husband is the head of the wife, even as Christ is the head of the church: and he is the saviour of the body” (Eph.5: 23).

See also Eph.1: 22 & Col 1:18.

The head of the church is logically the one whose body we are in, and that is Christ. Hence, part of the body of Christ (the head) is in heaven on the right hand of God (Col.3: 1), whilst the members of His body which are alive, are on earth. Therefore believers today are spiritually in heaven already (as members of the body of Christ), even though their spirit resides in their body on earth.

Additional comments on our three points.

The first step is to know that we are “in Christ”, in His body, “which is the church” (Col.1: 24). And then, as Christians, as the body of Christ on earth we continue the work of Christ in the world. Those in the body of Christ still have a choice to do what they want, or be subject to the head and do what Christ requires of them, having been set in the body by the Father.

Applying the teaching to our life today.

A preacher will often challenge a man that makes a claim to being a Christian, whether he is one or not, whether the man sights himself as a Roman Catholic, Mormon, Church of Christ, or Methodist. No doubt there are many today who are, like I was 35 years ago, when I attended a Presbyterian church for 16 years yet was no more in the body of Christ than a self-confessed atheist. I called myself a Christian, was confirmed, sung in the choir, prayed, and read a Good News Bible. But none of these set a man in the body, where Christ is head.

Questions to think about.

Would Christ, who is head of the body, “which is the church” give 200-plus different instructions to the members of His church? And if the body could agree on Christ’s instructions would the members seek to submit to His will, as the head of the body?

My answer to our question from the scriptures.

Because God is not the author of confusion (1Cor.14: 33) His Son, as head of the body would NOT give two instructions that conflict, let alone 200-plus. And as members of His body, believers would desire to submit themselves unto the Lord (Eph.5: 22), because “Christ is the head of the church: and he is the saviour of the body”, not a building, but His body, “which is the church”.