

One Body

Ephesians 4:4
Colossians 1:13-18

Introduction: Suppose someone was starting out to study the New Testament. Where would you point them in order for them to begin laying a strong foundation? They need something solid to build upon. What would constitute things necessary for such a firm foundation of faith? I would have them begin at ***Ephesians 4:4-6***. These would not only form a good foundation, but would also provide a promotion of unity.

I. There Is One Body.

- A. The expression “***one body***” is found:
 - 1. Twice in ***Romans 12:4-5***.
 - 2. Four times in ***1 Corinthians 12:12-13, 20***.
 - 3. Twice in ***Ephesians 2:16; 4:4***.
 - 4. Once in ***Colossians 3:15***.
- B. This corresponds with the statement of Jesus in ***Matthew 16:18*** (“***My church***”).
- C. There may be many members, but there is only one body (***Rom. 12:4-5; 1 Cor. 12:20***).

II. “Body” and “Church” Are Used Interchangeably.

- A. “***And He put all things under His feet, and gave Him to be head over all things to the church, which is His body, the fullness of Him who fills all in all***” (***Eph. 1:22-23***).
- B. “***He is the head of the body, the church, who is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, that in all things He may have the preeminence***” (***Col. 1:18***).
- C. We may rightly conclude that the body is the church.
- D. If, then there is one body (***Eph. 4:4***), how many churches are there? Only one!

III. The Body (Church) Consists Of All Saved People.

- A.** Word church is from a Greek word (ἐκκλησία). This is a compound word meaning “a calling out” (Strong). Thus, the body consists of those who are “called out.”
- 1.** They are called by God (**1 Peter 5:10**).
 - 2.** They are called by the gospel (**2 Thess. 2:14**).
 - 3.** They are called out of darkness (**1 Peter 2:9; cf. Matt. 2:15**).
 - 4.** They are added to the church {body} (**Acts 2:47**).
- B.** These “called ones” have voluntarily entered a relationship with God made possible through Christ.
- 1.** Jesus is their Savior and Redeemer (**Titus 2:13-14**).
 - 2.** Each one is an important part of the body (**Eph. 4:16**).

IV. Christ Is The Head Of This “One Body.”

- A.** “***And He is the head of the body, the church, who is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, that in all things He may have the preeminence***” (**Col. 1:18**).
- B.** The members are subject to the head (**Eph. 5:22-23**).
- 1.** What the head commands the body must do.
 - 2.** “***And whatever you do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through Him***” (**Col. 3:17**).

Conclusion: Are you part of the “one body”? If not, you should become part today. You can do so by obeying the gospel. HBRCB. Why not do it right now?