

THERE IS ONE BODY
(1 Co 12:12-20)

I. The Lord designed His church to be only one.

- A. Notice Ephesians 2:15-16.
 - 1. Jesus brought Jew and Gentile together.
 - 2. There is a great emphasis on oneness in this passage.
- B. Because of this, Paul told the Galatians that “ye are all one in Christ Jesus” (3:28).
- C. One of the arguments Paul used to keep the Corinthians from going back into idolatry was showing that the Lord’s Supper was a single feast participated in by one single spiritual body (1 Corinthians 10:14f).
- D. If the Lord could bring together in one body two sides that hated each other, we ought to easily see that the Lord intended for their to be unity.

II. The metaphors used by Jesus and the apostles demand only one body.

- A. Jesus said there was one door (Him) and one sheepfold (church) (John 10:7, 9).
 - 1. Would we believe there are many sheepfolds and only one door?
 - 2. This would be impossible.
- B. Jesus said there was one vine and individual branches (John 10:11).
- C. There is one head and one body (Ephesians 1:22-23; 5:23; Colossians 1:18).
 - 1. Could we imagine multiple bodies with one head?
 - 2. This is physically impossible and would destroy the image Paul created by inspiration if it could be spiritually possible.
- D. One groom and one bride (Ephesians 5:25-33).
 - 1. Could their be more than one bride?
 - 2. This would make the Lord a polygamist.
- E. One high priest and one temple (Hebrews 3:1; 5:10; Ephesians 2:21).
 - 1. Hebrews points back numerous times to the Old Testament.
 - 2. Was there ever a time when there was more than one high priest under the Old Testament?
 - 3. Was there ever more than one temple?
- F. Jesus is not coming back to claim many brides, only one (Ephesians 5:27 - notice the word “it” is singular).
- G. Jesus is not head over many bodies (Colossians 1:18).
- H. He died to purchase only one church (Acts 20:28).

III. One cannot teach the validity of many bodies without violating warnings from Jesus.

- A. Matthew 15:7-9; Mark 7:6-9.
- B. Notice the forcefulness of these passages.
- C. When you look at the various denominations, you see that there has to be some adding to, some taking from, some change to plain Bible instructions.
- D. These changes come from the minds of men.
- E. The only way to have a Roman Catholic Church is to go teach Roman Catholic doctrine.
 - 1. The only way to have a Baptist, Methodist, or any other denominational church, is to go out and teach those doctrines.
 - 2. The law of reaping and sowing is still true.
 - 3. Denominational doctrines must be sown or denominational churches cannot exist.
- F. If one simply teaches the Bible, not one denomination will be produced.
- G. It takes additional doctrines from the mind of men to produce denominations.

IV. The truth of one body will work because it was designed by God.

- A. If you look at the first century church this is easy to see.
 - 1. They were many congregations, but all in one body.
 - 2. The church at Jerusalem was no different from the churches in Corinth, Ephesus or Antioch.
 - 3. They may have had different problems, but they all shared the same doctrine.
- B. Some say that everyone can’t believe the same thing.
 - 1. God thinks they can.
 - 2. Not only that, He commands it.

3. Paul commanded it as well (1 Corinthians 1:10).
- C. The problem comes in when we desire to do things our way.
 - D. Multiple are the accounts of groups worshipping together with nothing but the New Testament, never having been in contact with the teachings of someone from the church of Christ.
 1. How could this be?
 2. Because the Bible only makes Christians and nothing else.
 - E. I read an account of a congregation in Jamaica that broke away from a charismatic group.
 1. They had never had contact with someone from the church of Christ or any tracts, radio messages or anything such as that.
 2. They simply were following what they read in one old man's copy of the King James Version of the Bible.
 - F. How could this be?
 - G. This is God's plan and what He designed and it works when we stay out of the running of it and simply follow His commands.