

Message Three

Living by Grace and Knowing the Body

Scripture Reading: 1 Cor. 15:10; 2 Cor. 12:9; 13:14; Rev. 22:21; Rom. 12:4-5; 1 Cor. 12:12

- 1 Cor **15:10** But by the grace of God I am what I am; and His grace unto me did not turn out to be in vain, but, on the contrary, I labored more abundantly than all of them, yet not I but the grace of God which is with me.
- 2 Cor **12:9** And He has said to me, My grace is sufficient for you, for My power is perfected in weakness. Most gladly therefore I will rather boast in my weaknesses that the power of Christ might tabernacle over me.
- 2 Cor **13:14** The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.
- Rev **22:21** The grace of the Lord Jesus be with all the saints. Amen.
- Rom **12:4** For just as in one body we have many members, and all the members do not have the same function,
- Rom **12:5** So we who are many are one Body in Christ, and individually members one of another.
- 1 Cor **12:12** For even as the body is one and has many members, yet all the members of the body, being many, are one body, so also is the Christ.

I. In order to live a life for the fulfillment of God's eternal purpose, we need to live by the grace of God in the economy of God—2 Cor. 12:9; 13:14:

- 2 Cor **12:9** And He has said to me, My grace is sufficient for you, for My power is perfected in weakness. Most gladly therefore I will rather boast in my weaknesses that the power of Christ might tabernacle over me.
- 2 Cor **13:14** The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

A. Grace is the manifestation of the Triune God in His embodiment in three aspects—the Father, the Son, and the Spirit—v. 14; Num. 6:22-27; Psa. 36:8-9:

- 2 Cor **13:14** The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.
- Num **6:22** Then Jehovah spoke to Moses, saying,
- Num **6:23** Speak to Aaron and to his sons, saying, Thus you shall bless the children of Israel; you shall say to them,
- Num **6:24** Jehovah bless you and keep you;
- Num **6:25** Jehovah make His face shine upon you and be gracious to you;
- Num **6:26** Jehovah lift up His countenance upon you and give you peace.
- Num **6:27** So shall they put My name upon the children of Israel, that I Myself may bless them.
- Psa **36:8** They are saturated with the fatness of Your house, And You cause them to drink of the river of Your pleasures.
- Psa **36:9** For with You is the fountain of life; In Your light we see light.

1. Grace is the Triune God in His incarnation to be dispensed into the believers by the Father as the source, by the Son as the element, and by the Spirit as the application—2 Cor. 13:14:

- 2 Cor **13:14** The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.
- a. The source of grace, the element of grace, and the application of grace are the three persons of the Divine Trinity to be our everything—Matt. 28:19.
- Matt **28:19** Go therefore and disciple all the nations, baptizing them into the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit,
- b. In the divine dispensing, grace is called the grace of God, the grace of Christ, and the grace of which the Spirit is—1 Cor. 15:10; 2 Cor. 1:12; 8:1, 9; 9:14; 12:9; 13:14; Heb. 10:29.
- 1 Cor **15:10** But by the grace of God I am what I am; and His grace unto me did not turn out to be in vain, but, on the contrary, I labored more abundantly than all of them, yet not I but the grace of God which is with me.
- 2 Cor **1:12** For our boasting is this, the testimony of our conscience, that in singleness and sincerity of God, not in fleshly wisdom but in the grace of God, we have conducted ourselves in the world, and more abundantly toward you.
- 2 Cor **8:1** Furthermore we make known to you, brothers, the grace of God which has been given in the churches of Macedonia,

- 2 Cor 8:9 For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though He was rich, for your sakes He became poor in order that you, because of His poverty, might become rich.
- 2 Cor 9:14 While in petition on your behalf they also long after you on account of the surpassing grace of God upon you.
- 2 Cor 12:9 And He has said to me, My grace is sufficient for you, for My power is perfected in weakness. Most gladly therefore I will rather boast in my weaknesses that the power of Christ might tabernacle over me.
- 2 Cor 13:14 The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.
- Heb 10:29 By how much do you think he will be thought worthy of worse punishment who has trampled underfoot the Son of God and has considered the blood of the covenant by which he was sanctified a common thing and has insulted the Spirit of grace?
2. Without being processed, the Triune God could not be grace to us; God the Father is embodied in the Son, the Son is realized as the life-giving Spirit, and the Spirit enters into us as grace for our enjoyment—John 1:14; 1 Cor. 15:45b; Heb. 10:29.

John 1:14 And the Word became flesh and tabernacled among us (and we beheld His glory, glory as of the only Begotten from the Father), full of grace and reality.

1 Cor 15:45b ... the last Adam *became* a life-giving Spirit.

Heb 10:29 By how much do you think he will be thought worthy of worse punishment who has trampled underfoot the Son of God and has considered the blood of the covenant by which he was sanctified a common thing and has insulted the Spirit of grace?
 3. Grace is Christ coming into us to be our full enjoyment—John 1:16; Phil. 4:23.

John 1:16 For of His fullness we have all received, and grace upon grace.

Phil 4:23 The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ be with your spirit.
 4. Grace means God is everything, God does everything, and God gives everything—1 Pet. 5:10.

1 Pet 5:10 But the God of all grace, He who has called you into His eternal glory in Christ Jesus, after you have suffered a little while, will Himself perfect, establish, strengthen, *and* ground *you*.
 5. Grace is the resurrected Christ as the life-giving Spirit bringing the processed Triune God into us to be our life and life supply so that we may live in resurrection—1 Cor. 15:10.

1 Cor 15:10 But by the grace of God I am what I am; and His grace unto me did not turn out to be in vain, but, on the contrary, I labored more abundantly than all of them, yet not I but the grace of God which is with me.
- B. The New Testament believers' living under the grace in God's economy is a total living of experiencing the processed and consummated Triune God as grace— Gal. 6:18; Heb. 4:16; Rev. 22:21:
- Gal 6:18 The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with your spirit, brothers. Amen.
- Heb 4:16 Let us therefore come forward with boldness to the throne of grace that we may receive mercy and find grace for timely help.
- Rev 22:21 The grace of the Lord Jesus be with all the saints. Amen.
1. A total living means that our entire living is a living of the Triune God processed to be grace in us—2 Cor. 13:14.

2 Cor 13:14 The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.
 2. The Christian living must be the living of grace, the experience of grace; our Christian life is a life of having God as our grace—1:12.

2 Cor 1:12 For our boasting is this, the testimony of our conscience, that in singleness and sincerity of God, not in fleshly wisdom but in the grace of God, we have conducted ourselves in the world, and more abundantly toward you.
 3. The grace of the Lord should be with each one of us in every aspect of our daily life—Rev. 22:21.

Rev 22:21 The grace of the Lord Jesus be with all the saints. Amen.
 4. We need to learn to enjoy the Lord Himself as grace—2 Cor. 12:9.

2 Cor 12:9 And He has said to me, My grace is sufficient for you, for My power is perfected in weakness. Most gladly therefore I will rather boast in my weaknesses that the power of Christ might tabernacle over me.

C. The consummation of the believers' experience of the grace of God in His economy is the church as the Body of Christ—Eph. 1:6-8, 22-23:

Eph 1:6 To the praise of the glory of His grace, with which He graced us in the Beloved;

Eph 1:7 In whom we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of offenses, according to the riches of His grace,

Eph 1:8 Which He caused to abound to us in all wisdom and prudence,

Eph 1:22 And He subjected all things under His feet and gave Him *to be* Head over all things to the church,

Eph 1:23 Which is His Body, the fullness of the One who fills all in all.

1. Our experience of the grace of God in our living and in our words and actions issues in the Body of Christ—vv. 6-8, 22-23; 2:8; 3:2; 4:4, 16, 29.

Eph 1:6 To the praise of the glory of His grace, with which He graced us in the Beloved;

Eph 1:7 In whom we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of offenses, according to the riches of His grace,

Eph 1:8 Which He caused to abound to us in all wisdom and prudence,

Eph 1:22 And He subjected all things under His feet and gave Him *to be* Head over all things to the church,

Eph 1:23 Which is His Body, the fullness of the One who fills all in all.

Eph 2:8 For by grace you have been saved through faith, and this not of yourselves; *it is* the gift of God;

Eph 3:2 If indeed you have heard of the stewardship of the grace of God which was given to me for you,

Eph 4:4 One Body and one Spirit, even as also you were called in one hope of your calling;

Eph 4:16 Out from whom all the Body, being joined together and being knit together through every joint of the rich supply and *through* the operation in the measure of each one part, causes the growth of the Body unto the building up of itself in love.

Eph 4:29 Let no corrupt word proceed out of your mouth, but only that which is good for building up, according to the need, that it may give grace to those who hear.

2. The practical life of the Body of Christ comes forth only out of the enjoyment of Christ as the grace of God—1 Cor. 12:27; 15:10; 2 Cor. 8:9; 12:9; 13:14.

1 Cor 12:27 Now you are the Body of Christ, and members individually.

1 Cor 15:10 But by the grace of God I am what I am; and His grace unto me did not turn out to be in vain, but, on the contrary, I labored more abundantly than all of them, yet not I but the grace of God which is with me.

2 Cor 8:9 For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though He was rich, for your sakes He became poor in order that you, because of His poverty, might become rich.

2 Cor 12:9 And He has said to me, My grace is sufficient for you, for My power is perfected in weakness. Most gladly therefore I will rather boast in my weaknesses that the power of Christ might tabernacle over me.

2 Cor 13:14 The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

3. Every part of the organic Body of Christ is an issue of our experience of the grace of God in the economy of God—John 1:16; Rom. 5:21; 12:3-8.

John 1:16 For of His fullness we have all received, and grace upon grace.

Rom 5:21 In order that just as sin reigned in death, so also grace might reign through righteousness unto eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Rom 12:3 For I say, through the grace given to me, to every one who is among you, not to think more highly *of himself* than he ought to think, but to think so as to be sober-minded, as God has apportioned to each a measure of faith.

Rom 12:4 For just as in one body we have many members, and all the members do not have the same function,

Rom 12:5 So we who are many are one Body in Christ, and individually members one of another.

Rom 12:6 And having gifts that differ according to the grace given to us, whether prophecy, *let us prophesy* according to the proportion of faith;

Rom 12:7 Or service, *let us be faithful* in that service; or he who teaches, in that teaching;

Rom 12:8 Or he who exhorts, in that exhortation; he who gives, in simplicity; he who leads, in diligence; he who shows mercy, in cheerfulness.

II. In order to live a life for the fulfillment of God's eternal purpose, we need to know the Body—vv. 4-5; 1 Cor. 12:12-13, 20, 27; Eph. 1:22-23:

Rom 12:4 For just as in one body we have many members, and all the members do not have the same function,

Rom 12:5 So we who are many are one Body in Christ, and individually members one of another.

1 Cor 12:12 For even as the body is one and has many members, yet all the members of the body, being many, are one body, so also is the Christ.

1 Cor 12:13 For also in one Spirit we were all baptized into one Body, whether Jews or Greeks, whether slaves or free, and were all given to drink one Spirit.

1 Cor 12:20 But now the members are many, but the body one.

1 Cor 12:27 Now you are the Body of Christ, and members individually.

Eph 1:22 And He subjected all things under His feet and gave Him *to be* Head over all things to the church,

Eph 1:23 Which is His Body, the fullness of the One who fills all in all.

A. The goal of God's economy is to produce a Body for His Son; this Body fulfills God's desire for His expression and for the destruction of Satan—Rom. 12:4-5; 1 Cor. 12:12, 27; Eph. 1:22-23; 4:4, 16; Col. 1:18; 2:19; Gen. 1:26-28.

Rom 12:4 For just as in one body we have many members, and all the members do not have the same function,

Rom 12:5 So we who are many are one Body in Christ, and individually members one of another.

1 Cor 12:12 For even as the body is one and has many members, yet all the members of the body, being many, are one body, so also is the Christ.

1 Cor 12:27 Now you are the Body of Christ, and members individually.

Eph 1:22 And He subjected all things under His feet and gave Him *to be* Head over all things to the church,

Eph 1:23 Which is His Body, the fullness of the One who fills all in all.

Eph 4:4 One Body and one Spirit, even as also you were called in one hope of your calling;

Eph 4:16 Out from whom all the Body, being joined together and being knit together through every joint of the rich supply and *through* the operation in the measure of each one part, causes the growth of the Body unto the building up of itself in love.

Col 1:18 And He is the Head of the Body, the church; He is the beginning, the Firstborn from the dead, that He Himself might have the first place in all things;

Col 2:19 And not holding the Head, out from whom all the Body, being richly supplied and knit together by means of the joints and sinews, grows with the growth of God.

Gen 1:26 And God said, Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness; and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of heaven and over the cattle and over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps upon the earth.

Gen 1:27 And God created man in His own image; in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them.

Gen 1:28 And God blessed them; and God said to them, Be fruitful and multiply, and fill the earth and subdue it, and have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of heaven and over every living thing that moves upon the earth.

B. The Lord urgently needs the reality of the Body of Christ to be expressed in the local churches; unless there is a substantial expression of the Body, the Lord Jesus will not return—Rom. 12:4-5; 16:16; 1 Cor. 1:2; 12:27; Eph. 1:23; 4:16; 5:27, 30; Rev. 19:7.

Rom 12:4 For just as in one body we have many members, and all the members do not have the same function,

Rom 12:5 So we who are many are one Body in Christ, and individually members one of another.

Rom 16:16 Greet one another with a holy kiss. All the churches of Christ greet you.

1 Cor 1:2 To the church of God which is in Corinth, to those who have been sanctified in Christ Jesus, the called saints, with all those who call upon the name of our Lord Jesus Christ in every place, *who is* theirs and ours:

1 Cor 12:27 Now you are the Body of Christ, and members individually.

Eph 1:23 Which is His Body, the fullness of the One who fills all in all.

Eph 4:16 Out from whom all the Body, being joined together and being knit together through every joint of the rich supply and *through* the operation in the measure of each one part, causes the growth of the Body unto the building up of itself in love.

- Eph 5:27 That He might present the church to Himself glorious, not having spot or wrinkle or any such things, but that she would be holy and without blemish.
- Eph 5:30 Because we are members of His Body.
- Rev 19:7 Let us rejoice and exult, and let us give the glory to Him, for the marriage of the Lamb has come, and His wife has made herself ready.
- C. Christ in Himself is the Head, and Christ in all of us is the Body—Rom. 8:10; 12:4-5; 2 Cor. 13:5; 1 Cor. 12:27; Eph. 3:17; 4:15-16; Col. 1:18, 27; 2:19.
- Rom 8:10 But if Christ is in you, though the body is dead because of sin, the spirit is life because of righteousness.
- Rom 12:4 For just as in one body we have many members, and all the members do not have the same function,
- Rom 12:5 So we who are many are one Body in Christ, and individually members one of another.
- 2 Cor 13:5 Test yourselves whether you are in the faith; prove yourselves. Or do you not realize about yourselves that Jesus Christ is in you, unless you are disapproved?
- 1 Cor 12:27 Now you are the Body of Christ, and members individually.
- Eph 3:17 That Christ may make His home in your hearts through faith, that you, being rooted and grounded in love,
- Eph 4:15 But holding to truth in love, we may grow up into Him in all things, who is the Head, Christ,
- Eph 4:16 Out from whom all the Body, being joined together and being knit together through every joint of the rich supply and *through* the operation in the measure of each one part, causes the growth of the Body unto the building up of itself in love.
- Col 1:18 And He is the Head of the Body, the church; He is the beginning, the Firstborn from the dead, that He Himself might have the first place in all things;
- Col 1:27 To whom God willed to make known what are the riches of the glory of this mystery among the Gentiles, which is Christ in you, the hope of glory,
- Col 2:19 And not holding the Head, out from whom all the Body, being richly supplied and knit together by means of the joints and sinews, grows with the growth of God.
- D. The work of the Triune God in us is to produce and build up the Body of Christ—Eph. 3:16-21; Rom. 8:11; 12:4-5.
- Eph 3:16 That He would grant you, according to the riches of His glory, to be strengthened with power through His Spirit into the inner man,
- Eph 3:17 That Christ may make His home in your hearts through faith, that you, being rooted and grounded in love,
- Eph 3:18 May be full of strength to apprehend with all the saints what the breadth and length and height and depth are
- Eph 3:19 And to know the knowledge-surpassing love of Christ, that you may be filled unto all the fullness of God.
- Eph 3:20 But to Him who is able to do superabundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power which operates in us,
- Eph 3:21 To Him be the glory in the church and in Christ Jesus unto all the generations forever and ever. Amen.
- Rom 8:11 And if the Spirit of the One who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, He who raised Christ Jesus from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through His Spirit who indwells you.
- Rom 12:4 For just as in one body we have many members, and all the members do not have the same function,
- Rom 12:5 So we who are many are one Body in Christ, and individually members one of another.
- E. The Body is the governing law of the life and work of the children of God—Eph. 4:4, 16; 1 Cor. 12:4-6, 12-13, 27.
- Eph 4:4 One Body and one Spirit, even as also you were called in one hope of your calling;
- Eph 4:16 Out from whom all the Body, being joined together and being knit together through every joint of the rich supply and *through* the operation in the measure of each one part, causes the growth of the Body unto the building up of itself in love.
- 1 Cor 12:4 But there are distinctions of gifts, but the same Spirit;
- 1 Cor 12:5 And there are distinctions of ministries, yet the same Lord;
- 1 Cor 12:6 And there are distinctions of operations, but the same God, who operates all things in all.
- 1 Cor 12:12 For even as the body is one and has many members, yet all the members of the body, being many, are one body, so also is the Christ.
- 1 Cor 12:13 For also in one Spirit we were all baptized into one Body, whether Jews or Greeks, whether slaves or free, and were all given to drink one Spirit.
- 1 Cor 12:27 Now you are the Body of Christ, and members individually.

F. All the problems of the church today are due to ignorance concerning the Body of Christ—Eph. 1:17-23:

- Eph 1:17 That the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give to you a spirit of wisdom and revelation in the full knowledge of Him,
Eph 1:18 The eyes of your heart having been enlightened, that you may know what is the hope of His calling, and what are the riches of the glory of His inheritance in the saints,
Eph 1:19 And what is the surpassing greatness of His power toward us who believe, according to the operation of the might of His strength,
Eph 1:20 Which He caused to operate in Christ in raising Him from the dead and seating Him at His right hand in the heavenlies,
Eph 1:21 Far above all rule and authority and power and lordship and every name that is named not only in this age but also in that which is to come;
Eph 1:22 And He subjected all things under His feet and gave Him *to be* Head over all things to the church,
Eph 1:23 Which is His Body, the fullness of the One who fills all in all.

1. The biggest problem is not knowing the Body and not caring for the Body— vv. 17-23.

- Eph 1:17 That the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give to you a spirit of wisdom and revelation in the full knowledge of Him,
Eph 1:18 The eyes of your heart having been enlightened, that you may know what is the hope of His calling, and what are the riches of the glory of His inheritance in the saints,
Eph 1:19 And what is the surpassing greatness of His power toward us who believe, according to the operation of the might of His strength,
Eph 1:20 Which He caused to operate in Christ in raising Him from the dead and seating Him at His right hand in the heavenlies,
Eph 1:21 Far above all rule and authority and power and lordship and every name that is named not only in this age but also in that which is to come;
Eph 1:22 And He subjected all things under His feet and gave Him *to be* Head over all things to the church,
Eph 1:23 Which is His Body, the fullness of the One who fills all in all.

2. The way that we behave ourselves in the church, the ministry, and the work depends upon the degree of our seeing the Body—Acts 22:10; 26:18-19.

- Acts 22:10 And I said, What shall I do, Lord? And the Lord said to me, Rise up and go into Damascus, and there it will be told to you concerning all the things which have been appointed to you to do.
Acts 26:18 To open their eyes, to turn *them* from darkness to light and *from* the authority of Satan to God, that they may receive forgiveness of sins and an inheritance among those who have been sanctified by faith in Me.
Acts 26:19 Therefore, King Agrippa, I was not disobedient to the heavenly vision,

G. We need to know the Body in life—1 John 5:11-12; Col. 3:4; 2:19; Rom. 8:2, 6, 10-11; 12:4-5:

- 1 John 5:11 And this is the testimony, that God gave to us eternal life and this life is in His Son.
1 John 5:12 He who has the Son has the life; he who does not have the Son of God does not have the life.
Col 3:4 When Christ our life is manifested, then you also will be manifested with Him in glory.
Col 2:19 And not holding the Head, out from whom all the Body, being richly supplied and knit together by means of the joints and sinews, grows with the growth of God.
Rom 8:2 For the law of the Spirit of life has freed me in Christ Jesus from the law of sin and of death.
Rom 8:6 For the mind set on the flesh is death, but the mind set on the spirit is life and peace.
Rom 8:10 But if Christ is in you, though the body is dead because of sin, the spirit is life because of righteousness.
Rom 8:11 And if the Spirit of the One who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, He who raised Christ Jesus from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through His Spirit who indwells you.
Rom 12:4 For just as in one body we have many members, and all the members do not have the same function,
Rom 12:5 So we who are many are one Body in Christ, and individually members one of another.

1. The Body of Christ is formed by Christ as life in us; this life mingles with us to become the Body of Christ—1 John 5:11-12; Col. 3:4; 1:18; 2:19.

- 1 John 5:11 And this is the testimony, that God gave to us eternal life and this life is in His Son.
1 John 5:12 He who has the Son has the life; he who does not have the Son of God does not have the life.

- Col 3:4 When Christ our life is manifested, then you also will be manifested with Him in glory.
- Col 1:18 And He is the Head of the Body, the church; He is the beginning, the Firstborn from the dead, that He Himself might have the first place in all things;
- Col 2:19 And not holding the Head, out from whom all the Body, being richly supplied and knit together by means of the joints and sinews, grows with the growth of God.
2. Knowing the Body in life is the result of our experience of life and spiritual growth—1 John 2:12-14.
- 1 John 2:12 I write to you, little children, because your sins have been forgiven you because of His name.
- 1 John 2:13 I write to you, fathers, because you know Him who is from the beginning. I write to you, young men, because you have overcome the evil one. I write to you, young children, because you know the Father.
- 1 John 2:14 I have written to you, fathers, because you know Him who is from the beginning. I have written to you, young men, because you are strong and the word of God abides in you and you have overcome the evil one.
3. Knowing the Body requires that we deal with the flesh, the self, and the natural constitution; only when the flesh has been dealt with, the self has been abandoned, and the natural constitution has been broken can we touch the reality of the Body—Gal. 2:20; 5:24; Matt. 16:24; Eph. 4:4-6.
- Gal 2:20 I am crucified with Christ; and *it is* no longer I *who* live, but *it is* Christ *who* lives in me; and the *life* which I now live in the flesh I live in faith, the *faith* of the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself up for me.
- Gal 5:24 But they who are of Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and its lusts.
- Matt 16:24 Then Jesus said to His disciples, If anyone wants to come after Me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow Me.
- Eph 4:4 One Body and one Spirit, even as also you were called in one hope of your calling;
- Eph 4:5 One Lord, one faith, one baptism;
- Eph 4:6 One God and Father of all, who is over all and through all and in all.
4. Knowing the Body is a dealing with individualism; those who do not know the Body are individualistic—1 Cor. 12:14-22.
- 1 Cor 12:14 For the body is not one member but many.
- 1 Cor 12:15 If the foot should say, Because I am not a hand, I am not of the body, *it is not that* because of this it is not of the body.
- 1 Cor 12:16 And if the ear should say, Because I am not an eye, I am not of the body, *it is not that* because of this it is not of the body.
- 1 Cor 12:17 If the whole body were an eye, where would the hearing be? If the whole were the hearing, where would the smelling be?
- 1 Cor 12:18 But now God has placed the members, each one of them, in the body, even as He willed.
- 1 Cor 12:19 And if all were one member, where would the body be?
- 1 Cor 12:20 But now the members are many, but the body one.
- 1 Cor 12:21 And 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.
- 1 Cor 12:22 But much rather the members of the body which seem to be weaker are necessary.
- H. We need to know the Body in practice—vv. 20, 27; 15:58:
- 1 Cor 12:20 But now the members are many, but the body one.
- 1 Cor 12:27 Now you are the Body of Christ, and members individually.
- 1 Cor 15:58 Therefore, my beloved brothers, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that your labor is not in vain in the Lord.
1. A local church is an expression of the Body of Christ in a particular locality; the one universal church—the Body of Christ—becomes the many local churches—the local expressions of the Body of Christ—1:2; 10:32b; 12:12-13, 20, 27; Rom. 12:4-5; 16:1; Rev. 1:11; 22:16a.
- 1 Cor 1:2 To the church of God which is in Corinth, to those who have been sanctified in Christ Jesus, the called saints, with all those who call upon the name of our Lord Jesus Christ in every place, *who is* theirs and ours:
- 1 Cor 10:32b ... both to Jews and to Greeks and to the church of God;
- 1 Cor 12:12 For even as the body is one and has many members, yet all the members of the body, being many, are one body, so also is the Christ.

- 1 Cor **12:13** For also in one Spirit we were all baptized into one Body, whether Jews or Greeks, whether slaves or free, and were all given to drink one Spirit.
- 1 Cor **12:20** But now the members are many, but the body one.
- 1 Cor **12:27** Now you are the Body of Christ, and members individually.
- Rom **12:4** For just as in one body we have many members, and all the members do not have the same function,
- Rom **12:5** So we who are many are one Body in Christ, and individually members one of another.
- Rom **16:1** I commend to you Phoebe our sister, who is a deaconess of the church which is in Cenchrea,
- Rev **1:11** Saying, What you see write in a scroll and send *it* to the seven churches: to Ephesus and to Smyrna and to Pergamos and to Thyatira and to Sardis and to Philadelphia and to Laodicea.
- Rev **22:16a** I Jesus have sent My angel to testify to you these things for the churches. ...
2. If we know the Body, in our consideration the Body will be first and the local churches will be second—Rom. 12:4-5; 16:1, 4, 16.
- Rom **12:4** For just as in one body we have many members, and all the members do not have the same function,
- Rom **12:5** So we who are many are one Body in Christ, and individually members one of another.
- Rom **16:1** I commend to you Phoebe our sister, who is a deaconess of the church which is in Cenchrea,
- Rom **16:4** Who risked their own necks for my life, to whom not only I give thanks, but also all the churches of the Gentiles;
- Rom **16:16** Greet one another with a holy kiss. All the churches of Christ greet you.