

Christ & The Church (lesson #7)

Colossians 1:18 (Col 1:24; Eph 1:23)

1. **Read Matthew 16:13-20** & discuss:

a. What did Jesus ask His disciples (16:13)?

Matt 16:18 – When Jesus came into the region of Caesarea Philippi, He asked His disciples, saying, **"Who do men say that I, the Son of Man, am?"**

b. Who answered & what were their answers (16:14, 16)?

Matt 16:14 – So they [the disciples] said, **"Some say John the Baptist, some Elijah, & others Jeremiah or one of the prophets** [risen from the dead]."

Matt 16:16 – Simon Peter answered & said, **"You are the Christ, the Son of the living God."**

Mark 8:29 – He said to them, "But who do you say that I am?" Peter answered & said to Him, **"You are the Christ."**

Luke 9:20 – He said to them, "But who do you say that I am?" Peter answered & said, **"The Christ of God."**

c. How did he arrive at that conclusion (16:17)?

Matt 16:17 – Jesus answered & said to him, "Blessed are you, Simon Bar-Jonah, for flesh & blood has not revealed this to you, **but My Father who is in heaven** [revealed this to you]. **HOW?**

John 14:10-11 – Do you not believe that I am in the Father, & the Father in Me? The words that I speak to you I do not speak on My own authority; but the Father who dwells in Me does the works. 11 Believe Me that I am in the Father & the Father in Me, or else **believe Me for the sake of the works themselves.**

d. How does the answer compare with 1 Corinthians 3:11?

1 Cor 3:9-11 – For we are God's fellow workers; you are God's field, you are God's building. 10 **According to the grace of God which was given to me, as a wise master builder I have laid the foundation, & another builds on it.** But let each one take heed how he builds on it. 11 For no other foundation can anyone lay than that which is laid, which is Jesus Christ.

How could Paul & Christ both build what Christ Himself promised to build, i.e. God's building or house the church?

e. What is "this rock" upon which Christ would build His church (16:18)?

The rock ledge of truth that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God.

f. What figure is used to depict Christ (16:18)?

A builder: "I will build" – oikodomeo (oy-kod-om-eh'-o); to be a house-builder, i.e. construct or (figuratively) confirm:

g. What role did Christ say the apostles would have in His church (16:19)?

Matt 16:19 (Jesus to Peter) – And I will give you **the keys of the kingdom of heaven**, & **whatever you bind on earth** will be bound in heaven, & **whatever you loose on earth** will be loosed in heaven."

Matt 18:18 (Jesus to the twelve) – "Assuredly, I say to you, whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, & whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven.

What is the context? Consider **18:15-20**; See also **John 20:22-23**; **14:26**; **15:26-27**; **16:13**)

Ephesians 3:8-11 – To me, who am less than the least of all the _____, this _____ was given, that I should preach among the Gentiles the _____ of Christ, **9** and to make all see what is the _____ of the _____, which from the beginning of the ages has been hidden in God who created all things through Jesus Christ; **10** to the intent that now the _____ of God might be made known by the _____ to the principalities and powers in the heavenly places, **11** according to the _____ which He accomplished in Christ Jesus our Lord, **12** in whom we have _____ & _____ with _____ through faith in Him.

2. Read 1 Corinthians 12:12-31 & discuss:

a. How is the human body like Christ (12:12, 14, 20, 27)?

The body of Christ, like our individual bodies, has many members.

1 Cor 12:12 – For as the body is one & has many members, but all the members of that one body, being many, are one body, so also is Christ.

1 Cor 12:14 – For in fact the body is not one member but many

1 Cor 12:20 – But now indeed there are many members, yet one body

1 Cor 12:27 – Now you are the body of Christ, & members individually

b. How do we enter the one body of Christ (12:13)?

1 Cor 12:13 – For **BY** [by the direction] **one Spirit we were all baptized into one body** -- whether Jews or Greeks, whether slaves or free -- & have all been made to drink into one Spirit.

en (en); a primary preposition denoting (fixed) position (in place, time or state), & (by implication) **instrumentality**.

c. Should we expect every member to work alike (12:15-17, 19-21)?

No! Each member's work, while under the direction of God's word, will vary in emphasis according to ability & attribute.

A foot can do the work of a hand, but it was not designed for that purpose.

An eye can sometimes discern what the ear hears, but the eye was not designed for hearing or smelling

No part (member) can say that any other member is not necessary.

d. What misconception can we have about members (12:22-23)?

1 Cor 12:22-23 – No, much rather, those members of the body which **seem to be weaker** are necessary. 23 And those members of the body which **we think to be less honorable**, on these we bestow greater honor; & our unrepresentable parts have greater modesty,

We can think that some members are weaker & less honorable, which would render them unnecessary. But that is only as "we think" or as it "seems" to us.

- e. How are the members placed in the body & for what purpose (12:18, 24-26)?

1 Cor 12:18 – But now God has set the members, each one of them, in the body ***just as He pleased.***

1 Cor 12:24 – but our presentable parts have no need. But ***God composed the body, having given greater honor to that part which lacks it,***

1 Cor 12:25-26 – ***that there should be no schism [split, gap, tear, division] in the body, but that the members should have the same care for one another.*** 26 And if one member suffers, all the members suffer with it; or if one member is honored, all the members rejoice with it.

- f. What was the thrust of Paul's argument (12:28-31)?

The proper attitude toward those with spiritual gifts

1 Cor 12:28-31 – And ***God has appointed these in the church:*** first apostles, second prophets, third teachers, after that miracles, then gifts of healings, helps, administrations, varieties of tongues. 29 Are all apostles? Are all prophets? Are all teachers? Are all workers of miracles? 30 Do all have gifts of healings? Do all speak with tongues? Do all interpret? 31 But earnestly desire the best gifts. And yet I show you a more excellent way.

3. Read Ephesians 5:23-33 & discuss:

- a. What is the theme of verses 22-24?

The **subjection of the church** to Christ

b. What is the theme of verses 25-33?

The **love of Christ** for the church

c. How did Christ sanctify & cleanse the church (5:25-26)?

Eph 5:25-26 – Husbands, love your wives, just as **Christ** also loved the church & **gave Himself for her**, 26 that He might sanctify & cleanse her **with the washing of water** [baptism commanded by Christ] **BY** [the direction of] **the word**,

en (en); a primary preposition denoting (fixed) position (in place, time or state), & (by implication) **instrumentality**.

d. Why did Christ sanctify & cleanse the church (5:27)?

Eph 5:27 – **that He might present her to Himself a glorious church**, not having spot [stain, blemish, defect causing disgrace to Christ] or wrinkle [a fold on the face] or any such thing, but **that she should be holy** & without blemish [flaw].

It is the responsibility of each member to maintain a condition of being without spot or wrinkle, & without blemish.

e. How does Paul describe the intimacy between Christ & the church (5:28-31)?

Eph 5:28-31 – So husbands ought to **love** their own wives as their **own bodies**; he who loves his wife loves himself. 29 For no one ever hated his own flesh, but **nourishes** [to rear up to maturity] & **cherishes** [to warm, brood, foster] it, just as the Lord does the church. 30 **For we are members of His body, of His flesh & of His bones**. 31 "For this reason a man shall leave his father & mother & be joined to his wife, & the two shall become one flesh" (**Gen 2:24**).

- f. Since one is baptized into Christ's body (1 Cor 12:13), & since His body is the church (Col 1:18), & since He is the Savior of His body the church (Eph 5:23), & since there is only one body (Eph 4:4), then what ought we to conclude about the church (ecclesia: the called out of God)?

We had better do what is necessary to be a part of that one body the church, if we hope to be presented to Christ as a holy & chaste bride.

2 Cor 11:2 – For I am jealous for you with godly jealousy. For ***I have betrothed you to one husband, that I may present you as a chaste virgin to Christ.***