

=THE BODY OF JESUS=

Lesson 8

The Body of Jesus

INTRODUCTION: In the past several weeks we have been discussing for our lessons the members of the body of Jesus—His hands, arms, face, etc. There is another sense in which Christ has a body, and that is His spiritual body, I Corinthians 12:12-26. Every Christian is a member of that body. This lesson has to do with the body of Christ and each Christian as a particular member.

POINT OF CONTACT: Remind your pupils that the human body works together. You might walk and point out that the eyes show where to go, the legs and feet take you, the hands help keep equilibrium, etc. That isn't all. Each organ in the body must function properly if there is to be enough strength with which to walk. Consequently, every member of the body is important and needs every other member. Then, teacher, make the transition from the physical body to the spiritual body of Christ.

- I. EACH CHRISTIAN IS A MEMBER OF HIS BODY, I Corinthians 12:12. In spite of this, we are one body. We're all one in Christ and should remember this important truth.
- II. WE ARE BAPTIZED INTO THAT BODY, I Corinthians 12:13. When a person is saved, the Holy Spirit baptizes him into the body of Christ and places him as a member of that body. He then becomes one with every other Christian and a part of Christ Himself.
- III. THERE IS NO WAY TO BE REMOVED FROM THAT BODY, I Corinthians 12:15. Christ's body is perfect and the members cannot be severed. Ah, here is security.
- IV. WE ARE NOT TO ENVY THE OTHERS' POSITIONS IN THE BODY, I Corinthians 12:16. The foot doesn't envy the hand, neither does it fight against it. Each member of the body is important and should be satisfied with its position, duty, and responsibility.
- V. EACH MEMBER OF THE BODY IS NEEDED, I Corinthians 12:15, 16. It is very important that a person feel needed. Hence, we should realize that regardless how little our place is, it is an important place. We should fill it. Regardless how little our duties, we should do our best to fulfill them. No member is unimportant. No work for God is unimportant. Each of us is needed and should do his best for God.
- VI. EACH MEMBER NEEDS EACH OF THE OTHER MEMBERS, I Corinthians 12:17. There are many members in the physical body that we cannot even name. In your body there are members you have never seen and will never see. In spite of that fact, you need them. In the body of Christ there are Christians in India, South America, and other places of the world whom you have never seen and will never see until you get to Heaven. Yet, in some strange way you need them.
- VII. WHEN I HURT A FELLOW CHRISTIAN I HURT MYSELF, I Corinthians 12:17. Suppose your hand becomes jealous of your foot and hits it, or your finger becomes jealous of your eye and pokes it out. How ridiculous! It is even more ridiculous that one Christian hurts another. When one finds fault in another he hurts himself. We are all members of the same body. The entire body suffers when one member is hurt. No member should hurt another, for in so doing he hurts himself.
- VIII. WE ARE PLACED AS MEMBERS OF THE BODY ACCORDING TO THE PLEASURE OF CHRIST. We should be happy with the job that Christ gives us. He has a place for me; He has a place for you. You are to be pleased and satisfied with the place He gives you. This is His will. Hence, no member of the body is more important or greater than another. The greatest member of the body is the one which is in the will of God doing its purpose.
- IX. WE SHOULD NOT ENVY ANOTHER MEMBER, I Corinthians 12:19, 20. Can you imagine one big eye walking around? The truth is, an eye couldn't walk around. It has to have legs and feet. Can you imagine one big tongue floating down the street? The truth is, we should not covet another's gift or place in the body.

- X. WE ARE NOT TO BE UNKIND TO OTHER MEMBERS OF THE BODY, I Corinthians 12:21.
- XI. WE ARE TO REALIZE THAT THE LEAST MEMBERS OF THE BODY ARE OFTEN THE MOST NECESSARY. The eye is a very small member; yet, how needed it is. We are not to look down on smaller members of the body, for in a real sense, oftentimes the smallest members are the most necessary.
- XII. WE ARE TO HELP THOSE MEMBERS OF THE BODY WHICH ARE LEAST ATTRACTIVE, I Corinthians 12:23. When a person has a dirty chin, he wipes it. When a lady has a shiny nose, she powders it. If one has hair that is messed up, he combs it. I Corinthians 12:23 teaches us that when members of the body need our help we are to help them. We are to pay more attention to those who are least attractive and least spiritual.
- XIII. THE BODY SHOULD NOT BE DIVIDED, I Corinthians 12:25. We should not have divisions and splits in the body of Christ. We should serve God with love and compassion for one another keeping the unity of the Spirit.
- XIV. EACH MEMBER OF THE BODY IS TO SUFFER WHEN ANOTHER MEMBER OF THE BODY SUFFERS. The mouth does not laugh when the foot is hurt; rather, it hollers, the face grimaces, the hands rush to its rescue. When one member of the body of Christ suffers, all of us are supposed to suffer. This should apply to sickness, funerals, burdens, etc.
- XV. WHEN ONE MEMBER REJOICES OR IS HONORED WE ARE ALL TO REJOICE AND FEEL HONORED. When something good happens to a member we are not to be jealous. We are to rejoice because it has happened to one of our body. Hence, in a real sense, it happened to us.

CONCLUSION: What a wonderful thing it would be if all born again people could realize that we are washed in the same blood, indwelt by the same Spirit, children of the same Father, brothers and sisters of the same elder Brother, travelers to the same Heaven, and members of the same body. Let us do our best to be the kind of members that would be pleasing to Him.