

## The Body of Christ Ephesians 1:20-23

[Eph 1:20-23 ESV] 20 that he worked in Christ when he raised him from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly places, 21 far above all rule and authority and power and dominion, and above every name that is named, not only in this age but also in the one to come. 22 And he put all things under his feet and gave him as head over all things to the church, 23 which is his body, the fullness of him who fills all in all.

### I. Intro

- A. The Body of Christ is sometimes misunderstood
- B. The Body was and is directly responsible for the work of God on this earth.
- C. Lets look at this in fullness.

### II. Text

- A. Verse 20
  1. God worked in His great might
  2. Trinitarian concepts on display
- B. Verse 21
  1. The supremacy of Christ seen in this work
  2. Supreme in this age and the age to come, Lord
- C. Verse 22
  1. All authority is given to the resurrected Christ
  2. This is the working of the immeasurable greatness and power of God.
  3. Now should be most obvious in the church.
- D. Verse 23
  1. The church is the body of Christ
  2. The Spirit given to the believer is effective in making a group of people into the Body of Christ

### III. Point

- A. The Sacrificed Body
  1. The body of Christ Died
  2. Jesus died for us, endured much and gave all.
  3. Let us never forget the body that was sacrificed
  4. This is the only complete sacrifice that has ever been made:
    - a) The OT sacrificial system was pointing to Jesus.
    - b) The OT system was difficult, painful, uncomfortable, but never enough... complete.
    - c) The Gospel's show us the perfection of Christ regarding the law, and the fulfillment of the law.
    - d) This allowed for Christ to be our sacrifice
    - e) Every "sacrifice" we call a sacrifice, falls short of the one complete sacrifice.
    - f) We do experience things that could be considered uncomfortable, difficult, or even painful, but the level of sacrifice is not the same.
  5. We use the word sacrifice too often to refer to something that we should be doing with joy and excitement:
    - a) Volunteering with the church
    - b) Tithes and offerings
    - c) Doing hard things...
  6. These "sacrifices" are actually part of the process of sanctification.
- B. The Resurrected Body
  1. The body of Christ was raised
  2. The resurrection of Christ was physical and spiritual.
    - a) "Jesus rose from the dead in the very same physical body in which He died. This resurrected, physical body was a glorified, spiritual body. The spiritual body is

not merely “spirit.” The spiritual body is the resurrected, glorified, physical body.”

- b) After the resurrection, Jesus was able to eat (Luke 24:42-43). He showed people His hands and feet with the nail prints in them (Luke 24:39; John 20:27), and people even grabbed His feet and worshipped Him (Matt. 28:9). As the reports of Jesus’ resurrection were spreading, Thomas, who was doubting the resurrection of Christ, said, “Unless I shall see in His hands the imprint of the nails, and put my finger into the place of the nails, and put my hand into His side, I will not believe.” (John 20:25). Later, Jesus appeared to Thomas and said to him, “Reach here your finger, and see My hands; and reach here your hand, and put it into My side; and be not unbelieving, but believing.” (John 20:27).
3. His resurrected body was different in some ways, but also the same:
  - a) He Could Enter Closed Rooms
    - (1) He could enter closed rooms without opening the doors.
    - (2) When therefore it was evening, on that day, the first day of the week, and when the doors were shut where the disciples were, for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood in their midst, and said to them, "Peace be with you" (John 20:19).
  - b) He Was Able To Disappear
    - (1) He was also able to disappear. The Bible says that Jesus disappeared from sight from the two people whom He had been walking with on the road to Emmaus.
    - (2) And it came about that when he had reclined at the table with them, he took the bread and blessed it, and breaking it, he began giving it to them. And their eyes were opened and they recognized him; and he vanished from their sight (Luke 24:30-31).
  - c) We don’t have an account of Jesus doing this before the resurrection, but it does not mean that he could not.
4. The Resurrected Physical Body of Jesus is foundational to orthodox Christianity:
  - a) Some groups deny this for some reason, yet scripture speaks clearly.
  - b) Other doctrines are not as clearly presented, and allow for debate and disagreement.
  - c) THIS IS NOT ONE OF THOSE DOCTRINES!
  - d) This is a doctrine that does not allow for compromise.
- C. The Equipped Body
  1. The body of Christ is equipped
  2. This is not just the spiritual concept in fullness, but physical.
  3. The CHURCH IS THE BODY of CHRIST
  4. We are equipped in such a way that would fulfill every ministry need set before us.
    - a) The Body of Christ is gifted to accomplish the ministry of Christ
    - b) The Body of Christ is equipped for every good thing
    - c) The Body of Christ then, and now, is a supernatural and physical body that is effective because of the identity of God.
      - (1) The body is effective “In CHRIST”
      - (2) The body is equipped “In Christ”
      - (3) The body has life “In Christ”
  5. 1 Corinthians 12: One Body with Many Members
  6. 12 For just as the body is one and has many members, and all the members of the body, though many, are one body, so it is with Christ. 13 For in one Spirit we were all baptized into one body—Jews or Greeks, slaves[d] or free—and all were made to drink of one Spirit.
  7. 14 For the body does not consist of one member but of many. 15 If the foot should say, “Because I am not a hand, I do not belong to the body,” that would not make it any less a part of the body. 16 And if the ear should say, “Because I am not an eye, I

do not belong to the body," that would not make it any less a part of the body. 17 If the whole body were an eye, where would be the sense of hearing? If the whole body were an ear, where would be the sense of smell? 18 But as it is, God arranged the members in the body, each one of them, as he chose. 19 If all were a single member, where would the body be? 20 As it is, there are many parts,[e] yet one body. 21 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." 22 On the contrary, the parts of the body that seem to be weaker are indispensable, 23 and on those parts of the body that we think less honorable we bestow the greater honor, and our unpresentable parts are treated with greater modesty, 24 which our more presentable parts do not require. But God has so composed the body, giving greater honor to the part that lacked it, 25 that there may be no division in the body, but that the members may have the same care for one another. 26 If one member suffers, all suffer together; if one member is honored, all rejoice together. 27 Now you are the body of Christ and individually members of it. 28 And God has appointed in the church first apostles, second prophets, third teachers, then miracles, then gifts of healing, helping, administrating, and various kinds of tongues. 29 Are all apostles? Are all prophets? Are all teachers? Do all work miracles? 30 Do all possess gifts of healing? Do all speak with tongues? Do all interpret? 31 But earnestly desire the higher gifts. And I will show you a still more excellent way.

IV. Close

- A. We need the sacrifice of the body
- B. We need the resurrected body of Christ
- C. We NEED the Body of Christ, We are the body of Christ, we thrive together IN CHRIST!