

“Your Place In The Body Of Christ”
1 Corinthians 12

Introduction: There are several pictures of the church (family of God, people of God, bride of Christ, etc.) in the New Testament. The body of Christ is another one of those pictures. Of course, the body of Christ is the universal church, which is comprised of all true believers. The Bible also teaches us that there are local churches, which are tangible expressions of the body of Christ if they are true biblical churches. I want us to apply this passage to both of those expressions of the church and particularly focus on your place within the Body of Christ.

1. We are placed into the Body of Christ by the Holy Spirit (v. 1-3, 12-13).

A. Jesus is the Head of the Body.

B. The Holy Spirit works in us to bring us to saving faith.

C. The Holy Spirit places us in the Body of Christ.

D. This means that we are united together in Christ and are to live in unity and ministry to one another out of love.

2. We need and are needed by the Body of Christ (v. 12-26). The Body of Christ is interdependent. We need each other. We are one but not the same. However, the analogy of the body demonstrates the importance of every part and the fact that we need and are needed by the other parts of the body. We are called to unity, to care for one another, and to suffer and rejoice together. We demonstrate our faith to the world by loving one another.

3. We are gifted for serving the Body of Christ (v. 4-11). The New Testament lists several spiritual gifts and teaches us that every believer has at least one gift to use in serving the Lord by serving others (1 Peter 4:10). We are commanded to use our gifts. The Body of Christ needs us to be using our gifts. We grow spiritually and experience a God-given fulfillment by using our gifts.

Conclusion: Is Jesus your Lord? Are you part of the body of Christ? Are you living like you belong to the Body? Are you plugged into a small group? Are you using your gifts in service?