

September 19, 2010  
*The Bridge Bible Fellowship*  
Pastor Paul S. Brown  
Selected Scriptures

**“The Local Church Part Nine: Metaphors of the Church – Part One”**

God loves the Church!!! (Eph. 1:4f; Rev. 13:8; Jn. 3:16; 1 Jn. 4:14; 1 Jn. 1:3; Eph 3:21; Mt. 16; Jn. 17; 10:11-16; Lk. 24; Jn. 13-16; Acts 1:8; Mt. 28:18-20; Acts 2; 1 Cor. 12; Rom. 12; Eph. 4; Acts 1; 4; Rom. 8; 1 Pet. 1:1-2; 1 Tim. 3:15)

God loves the visible, local Church! Greek word ekklesia translated “church” 110 times in the N.T. and 90 of those undoubtedly refer to local churches.

**I. Memories of the the Early Church – 2:41-47**

**II. Metaphors of the Church** (A “metaphor” is a word or phrase that means one thing and is used for referring to another thing in order to emphasize their similar qualities. Example: a crumbling building as a metaphor for society)

**A. The Body of Christ** (Col. 1:18, 24; 2:19; Eph. 1:22-23; 2:14-16; 4:4, 12, 16; 5:30; 1 Cor. 12:12-31; Rom. 12:5; Eph. 4:11-16)

**1. Use of the Body Metaphor**

**2. The Relationship of the Head and the Body.**

a. **Sovereign Leadership** (Col. 1:15b-17; 2:19; Eph. 4:15-16; 5:24, 28-31)

b. **Source of life** (Col. 1:18; 2:11-13; 3:4; Rom. 6:4; 1 Cor. 15:45; Eph. 4:13)

c. **Sustenance of Life** (Col. 2:19; Eph. 4:7, 15-16)

**3. Members of the Body.**

a. **Unity** (1 Cor. 12:3-5, 25ff; 14:33; Rom. 12:4-5; Eph. 4:7-16; Col. 2:19; 1 Cor. 10:17)

b. **Diversity** (1 Cor. 12:14ff)

c. **Mutuality** (Rom. 12:5; Eph. 4:25; 1 Cor. 12:21-27;

**Commitment: Today as a member of Christ’s body I recommit myself to His goals for His glory.**

### Discussion Questions:

1. A “metaphor” is a word or phrase that means one thing and is used for referring to another thing in order to emphasize their similar qualities (example: a crumbling building as a metaphor for society). How many metaphors can you find in the New Testament for the Church? How do they help us understand the nature of the Church?
2. Why do you think the metaphor of the Head and the Body is used so frequently in the New Testament for the Church? How many similar qualities can you discover?
3. What are some typical attitudes people have today toward the Church and Church attendance? Why might they have those attitudes? What problems exist in churches that would make people conclude they would be better off just relating to Jesus on their own and not being involved in a church?
4. How does the metaphor of the Head and the Body address those thoughts / attitudes? What would happen to us physically if all of our body parts decided they didn’t need each other?
5. Study 1 Cor. 12. How would you use that chapter to show someone that they MUST be involved as an active member of a Church? Write out as many specific commands and principles as you can find.
6. What are some common “diseases” in the human body? Are there any similarities in the Body of Christ? What prescription would you give to cure those diseases?
7. What is your part in the Body of Christ? How specifically are you contributing to the health and maturity of the Body? How are you helping others grow in their ability to contribute? How could you be a more effective member of the Body this coming week?
8. What are God’s goals for His church? Will you recommit yourself right now to actively participate in His church to accomplish His goals for His glory?

