

The Body of Christ

and

Fellowship

What is the purpose of life?

God created us to be His friend and have a personal relationship with Him (Jn 17:3) through faith, lordship, holiness, stewardship and learning to be like Him character wise,

This is a fellowship relationship which is why fellowship is so important as it expresses the relationship we have with God and is the mode for how we relate to others of His children.

This means you need to know:

What it is

How you enter into it

What you need to do to maintain it

How to teach others about it.

According to John 17:3 this fellowship relationship results in Salvation if properly lived.

In the beginning was God  
There was no light as He did not need it  
Around Him was blackness

God decided it needed to be filled and made angels  
He then said: "I Have servants but no friends"  
So He made mankind.

God does not need us for anything as He is complete in Himself  
The only reason to make us was for us to relate to Him so He could show to us His Love.

He placed man in a beautiful Garden with all he needed  
And every day God came and fellowshiped with man.  
Man spoke to God face to face!

Mankind rebelled and lost this fellowship  
God saw mankind could do nothing to restore the relationship  
So He sent Jesus to do it.

The whole purpose of man  
Is to relate to God on a personal basis  
This should be the basis of all we do in the Christian life.

All God does is designed to get us to heaven  
This fellowship with God is designed to do this Obedience and Lordship are the keys to maintaining this fellowship

## **If God is God**

*You must live by His principles*

*You must do what he says*

*You must ensure you learn his principles and know what He requires you to do*

*What people say will not be as important as what He says*

*You will focus on Him and His requirements of you*

*And not what anyone says you should do*

*All you do will be for his purposes*

*You will do nothing that goes against his will*

*His love will be in you and ensure this obedience is done out of love*

*What he says and teaches will be more important than your own reasonings*

*You will trust what He says regardless of what man says*

*And in spite of what God allows to happen to you*

**This should be the attitude of the members of The Body**

*Joh 15:14 Ye are my friends, if ye do whatsoever I command you*

Jesus calls us His friends and not His servants. So how does this affect you when you go to church knowing He is in your midst?

*Mat 18:20 For where two or three are gathered together in my name, there am I in the midst of them.*

And how should it affect your relating to Jesus at church?

As an attendee? or one who delights to be with Him?

You must do what he says

You must ensure you learn his principles and know what He require do

What people say will not be as important as what He says

You obey His requirements of you

And not what anyone says you should do

All you do will be for his purposes

You will do nothing that goes against His Will

His Quality of Love will be in you and ensure this obedience is done in His quality of love

What He says and teaches will be more important than your own reasonings

You will trust what He says regardless of what man says and in spite of what God allows to happen to you

**This should be the attitude of the members of The Body**

## **The Body - Biblical Verses**

*1 Cor 12:12. For in like manner, because the body is one and there are many members in it, while all of them are many members, they are one body; thus also is The Messiah.*

*13. For we also are baptized by The One Spirit into one body, whether Jews or Aramaeans or Servants or free men, and we are all made to drink The One Spirit.*

*14. For also the body is not one member, but many.*

*15. For if a foot should say, "Because I am not a hand, I am not of the body", is it therefore not of the body?*

*16. And if an ear should say, "Because I am not an eye, I am not of the body", is it therefore not of the body?*

*17. For if all the body were an eye, where would the hearing be? And if it all were hearing, how would there be smell?*

*18. But now God has set everyone of the members in the body just as he has chosen. 19. But if they were all one member, where is the body?*

*20. But now there are many members, but the body is one.*

*21. The eye cannot say to the hand, "I do not need you"; neither can the head say to the feet, "I do not need you."*

*22. But all the more, those members that are considered weak, on the contrary are needful.*

*23. And those which we think are shameful in the body, we increase greater honor to these and for those that are contemptible we make greater attire.*

*24. But those members which we honor do not need honor, for God unites the body and he has given greater honor to the small members,*

*25. Lest there would be divisions in the body; but all the members should be caring equally one for another.*

*26. So now, when one member shall suffer, all of them shall share the pain. And if one member rejoices, all the members shall rejoice.*

*27. But you are the body of The Messiah and members in your places.*

*Col 1: 18. And he is The Head of the body which is the church, for he is The Head and The Firstborn from among the dead, that he would be Preeminent in everything,*

*Eph 2:20. And you are built up upon the foundation of the Apostles and of the Prophets, and he is The Head of The Corner of the building-Yeshua The Messiah.*

*21. And the whole building is constructed by him and grows into a holy temple in THE LORD JEHOVAH,*

*22. While you also are built by him for the dwelling of God in The Spirit.*

*Eph 2:27. And he shall establish the church for himself when it is glorious, without blemish or wrinkle, neither any such things whatsoever, but it will be holy and without defect.*

People do not understand The Body of Christ (which is made up of the people who follow Jesus as their complete Lord). If they did:

They would know their position in The Kingdom of God

They would know their proper relationship to God and to each other

They would represent The Kingdom of God and not a denomination or church and would not look upon these as being the Body of Christ!

The Body represents The Kingdom of God and not a denomination or church and The Body is led by The Holy Spirit. Not by denominational or church guidelines or objectives.

The Bible is the handbook of The Body but is not necessarily the hand- book of a denomination or a church.

Unless you know your position in The Kingdom and The Body, you will not do the work of Jesus as He desires you too do it. This is because you will accept the work of The Denomination as being the work of The Kingdom.

Sometimes the denomination and The Body will line up. But the work of a church or denomination is usually self-preservation and not the work of The Kingdom.

You may be a member of a denomination or church. But your primary loyalty is too The Body and its leader, Jesus

Everything the Body does has to be viewed from five perspectives:

The Body serves Jesus and not denominations, church bodies or similar

The Body is Holy to God, being called out from the world (which is controlled by Satan) and must separate itself from the attitudes and activities of the world having been sanctified by God (set apart for holiness).

Whatever it does must be in accordance with the Will of God

Whatever it does must bring Glory to God

It must interact with others with the same quality of Love God has and express His Character in all it.

A member of The Body must satisfy these attitudes in all they do for The Body to express these attitudes.

### *Overview of The Body of Christ*

#### **Jesus and The Body - His Roles in Relationship to The Body**

##### **He is head of The Body (Eph 1:22)**

He is its steward

He is its leader (Eph 5:24)

The Loyalty of The Body is to Jesus

The denomination or organised church is used by Satan to hide The Kingdom of God and/or divide to The Body

The fact members of The Body attend the organised church does not make that The Kingdom or The Body

He is its Saviour (Eph 5:23)

He sacrificed Himself for it (Eph 5:25)

He redeemed it (purchased it) with His own Blood (Acts 20:28)

He sanctified and justified it (1 Cor

6:11) To purify it (Eph 5:26)

So it would be undefiled and Holy to Him (Eph 5:27)

It will be a Body showing His Glory in all it does ((Eph 5:27)

He is the firstborn of The Body (Heb

12:23) He is the precursor of all in

The Body He is its example of how to live

God chooses those who will be in The Body (because they respond to His call 1 Pet 5:13)

They are chosen to be a part of The Body and the benefits of being a member of it

They are not appointed to be a part of The Body but are chosen because they desire to follow Jesus as their Lord

We are not predestined to be saved. Those who respond to the Love of Jesus for them are predestined (required) to walk in all He has prepared for them (of which Salvation, redemption, fellowship with Him and rewards are a part of).

### **Relationships of Jesus to The Body**

It is His Spiritual Body (Col 1:24)

He is the chief Cornerstone (the foundation of it Eph 2:20 )

Christ loves it (Eph 5:25)

The relationship of Christ to the church illustrates the relationship of a husband to a wife (Eph 5:32)

### **Responsibilities of Jesus to The Body**

God provides ministers for it to serve Him in it (Eph 4:11)

They are gifts to the church and not rulers of it

They are servants to the Body and not rulers of it

They are to help the Body mature

They are used by The Holy Spirit to build up The Body

They are to serve Jesus (The King) and not man (a citizen of The Kingdom)

Jesus adds members to it daily (Acts 2:47)

The Lord meets (nourishes) all its requirements (Mat 6:33)

Only people who are a good steward of their family can be a steward of people in The Body (1 Ti 3:5)

The church is not to support people who have family who are able to support them (1 Tim 5:16)

The elders of a church have a responsibility to minister to its members (James 5:14)

Faith is required to be a member of The Body (Acts 16:5)

### **Rewards of Jesus for service to The Body**

Rulership of all (Phil 2:9-11) which includes:

The Body, for Him to be its ruler

The Kingdom of God, for Him to be its King

Rulership of all creation

Rulership of Satan and his demons

### **The Holy Spirit and The Body**

The Holy Spirit unifies The Body (1 Cor 12:13)

The Holy Spirit guides, teaches and leads The Body (Job 32:8, Jn 16:13)

The Body is The Temple of The Holy Spirit (1 Cor 6:19)

The Holy Spirit's presence in The Body (1 Cor 6:19) through filling the spirit of the people in The Body.

The Holy Spirit's presence in us in our spirit witnesses that we are part of The Body (Rom 8:16)

### **The Body itself**

#### **Relationships to God and others**

We are chosen by God to be living stones in His Church (1 Pet 2:24, 1 Pet 2:5):

We are stepbrothers and step sisters of Jesus by adoption

We are His servants

We are His Citizens

We are His representatives on earth

In other words we are the building blocks of The Body.

### **Roles of The Body**

Follower of Jesus (Eph 1:22)

It is to give Him Glory for all that happens to it (Eph 3:21)

Its activities brings Him Glory (Eph 3:21)

To carry out their responsibilities in The Body

To be a member of The Body we must believe in who Jesus is (Mat 16:18) We must be a good steward of what He gives us to look after on His behalf (1Cor 4:2)

We must obey Him (Eph 1:22)

We are to bring forth Fruit for Jesus (Rom 7:4)

Because He has sanctified and justified The Body (1 Cor 6:11) We are to remove all that defiles us (Eph 5:26)

We are to pursue holiness (Eph 5:27)

We are to seek only His Glory in all we do (Eph 5:27)

The Body is to sing praises to God (Heb 2:12)

Those with spiritual responsibilities are to look after those they have been given to be a steward of (Acts 20:28)

We are to do our best to encourage and help mature each other in God's type of Love (Eph 4:15)

We are to learn our part in The Body and do it properly (Eph 4:15)

The Body is to be an example to non-believers of The Kingdom of God (1 Cor 14:23)

The church must demonstrate The Kingdom of God (Acts 5:11)

The demonstration of The Kingdom of God:

- Will cause Non-Christians to love God and follow Him
- Will cause Christians to love God, obey and serve Him
- Will cause people to see Jesus, it and Satan are real.

The elders represent The Body (Acts 20:17)

We are to use our God-given gifts to build The Body up (1 Cor 14:12)

We are not to speak things that irrelevant in an assembly of The Body (1 Cor 14:35)

Any command of Jesus are commands to The Body.

### **Rewards**

The Body will be clothed with white linen to show it is righteous to God (Rev 19:8)

A Mansion in Heaven (Jn 14:1-2)

A more intimate relationship with Jesus and The Father now and in eternity (God is our reward)

### **Miscellaneous matters in regard to The Body**

The gates of hell shall not hinder or stop it (Mat 16:18) Demons shall not prevail against it (Prov 16:18) The works of Satan shall not prevail against it

Each assembly of believers in The Body has an angel watching over them (Rev 1:20)

The Body is one in Jesus (1 Cor 12:2)

There is no nationality, race or sexuality in The Body (Gal 3:28) It will be persecuted along with you (1 Thes 2:14-15)

Because of this unity in The Body, as you affect one person in it you affect The Body because what you do to any of its members affects Jesus, its King, in some way (Matt 25:40). Those defiling it will be punished (1 Cor 3:17)

Disputes are to be resolved by mature Spirit led Christian men who are guided by The Holy Spirit (Mat 18:17)

There will be no confusion but only peace in The Body if it is in a proper relationship with God and each other (1 Cor 14:33)

Women must submit domestically to their husband in church but not

spiritually (1 Cor 14:34, Gal 3:28, 1Pet 3:1-6). Spiritually, both submit to Jesus their spiritual King. If they both submit to The Holy Spirit's guidance then the problem of headship will not occur.

### **What The Body is**

It is the House of God, The Pillar and Ground of The Truth (1 Tim :15)  
It is not the church of Israel but a new one built on faith in who Jesus is! (Mat 16:18).

It is the object of God's Grace (favour) (2 Cor 8:1)

He uses The Body to display the Wisdom of God (His correct application of His knowledge and understanding) to demonic powers and their forces (Eph 3:10).

### **Comments**

This overview is just knowledge. Knowledge without application is just knowledge. This knowledge has to be a practical part of your life for it to affect you. This is what wisdom is. Applying what you know in a practical way.

This next section deals with application of the knowledge detailed above.

### **Comments on the overview of the Body.**

#### **Jesus is its head.**

He brought it into existence through His death

He is its creator so looks after it as a good steward of it and leads it wisely, for its best desiring us to fulfil our part in it.

The Holy Spirit tells us what Jesus desires it to do.

He has the responsibility of providing what it needs for the people in it to live as He desires them to live and to serve Him as He desires them to serve Him. This is His promise in Matt 6:33 to all those That faithfully serve Him

He is our example of how a member of The Body should Live. We are to follow His example alone and not man's example. So, we need to study how He lived so we can

follow His example and also live like Him

### **The relationship of Jesus to the Body is various:**

He is its King and the members of it are His citizens

He is their spiritual step brother through their adoption by The Father

He is God to be worshipped by them.

He tells us what to do

He sits (fellowships) with them as member of the family of The Body)

Those in The Body need to approach Jesus according to the relationship being expressed with Him at the time (God, King, Brother, Friend, Servant, sinner).

There is also the responsibility of those in The Body to learn what God requires of them. So they need to study His requirements to be able to do what He asks them to do.

Jesus has given you free will so never forces you to do anything. In The Kingdom of God everything is voluntary, including obedience.

### **The Holy Spirit.**

The Holy Spirit unites the people in The Body so that they are the stones of The Temple of Christ and empowers and guides the members of The Body so that they can relate to God in the way they should and live as He desires them to live and serve Him. This is why it is so important to be able to hear The Holy Spirit so you can to be guided by Him. It is only as The Body is guided by The Holy Spirit that it will function as Jesus desires it to function.

### **The people in the Body**

The people in the Body have a responsibility to be a good steward of what God give them to look after on His behalf:

Their relationship to God

Their relationship to Jesus as their King

Ministry

Life

Family

Relationship to others

Work

Anything God has given them as steward of to do or to take care of for Him!

The Body is the army of The Lord Jesus, whose purpose is to be used by Jesus to free people from the enemy King, to train them to live as He requires them to live as well as to heal them of the enemy king's damage to them.

It is up to the individual members of the body to study and learn to do what Jesus requires of them. God has given us all we need to be able to do this and it is up to us to learn how to properly use His things and He will bring people along to help you. The Holy Spirit will teach us if we desire to learn these things (Job 32:8, Jn 7:17)

If you do not reach your full potential as a member of The Body, do not blame God. He will do His part and now it is up to you and you alone to do your part of the Salvation/Redemptive arrangement you have entered into with Him.

### **The Body must have the attitudes and purposes of The Mind of Christ**

Jesus is our King so that our mind needs to be one with His in attitudes, purpose, objectives and plans so that we will express these in all we do. We need to study what these are (as explained by God) so that we know them and are able to do them.

If you are led by The Holy Spirit in all you do you will express what God desires you too and will show His 'mind' to all around you. The Holy Spirit will also use The Body members to help each other in this.

One of the purposes of The Body is to help other members in it mature. And it is only in The Body will you have the support to be what you

can be in Jesus (Heb 10:24-25).

### **What is The Body**

The Body is an extended family related through adoption by the Father, united by their common love for Jesus, The Father and The Holy spirit being guided by The Holy Spirit to live in the way a citizen of heaven should live and by this demonstrate The Kingdom is real by the way it guides their attitudes and lifestyle.

Each member has their own individual life plan prepared for them by God from before creation (Eph 2:10) to mature them to the image of the Character of God as well as to prepare them to live forever with God in His Kingdom.

He has gone before them and prepared things for them to move into so that when they reach that point in their life all is prepared and ready for them too move into and work in that lifestyle to continue in what God has prepared for them to do.

Their distinguishing characteristic of The Body is the quality of love they have for each other. A reflection of The Love God has for them and expresses The Kingdom's values and purposes on earth.

It is not the quality of love the world has. It is a selfless type of love that serves others without hesitation or desire for reward! This is how it is expressed in heaven and how we should be learning to express it on earth in preparation for heaven. This is one way God expresses His Love toward us

Remember that earth is the training ground for heaven where we learn and practice the attitudes we will have in heaven.

A Christian is a member of The Body (the extended family in heaven and on earth), and a citizen of The Kingdom of God. They represent God and His Kingdom.

Only if The Body functions as it should will people see Jesus, learn of His Kingdom and be drawn to them both. Only as each member of the Body functions as they should will the Body function as it should.



The responsibility of a Christian is to find out their function in The Body at that moment of time and then to do it. Their function will change according to need and maturity. God will prepare you for this work and train you as you do it. He will not ask you to anything He has not prepared you for or are not capable of doing.

The Holy Spirit will guide you and help you in this. So it is very important to be able to hear The Holy spirit in all you do each day, so that you know what God wants you to do at that moment of time.

### **Fellowship**

While the Christian life is one of stewardship of all you do it is also one of fellowship:

Continuous fellowship with The Holy Spirit in you through His presence in you.

Fellowship with others in The Body.

Fellowship with Jesus and The Father which is salvation (Jn 17:3).

Relationships with people outside The Body, can never be a fellowship relationship.

A gathering of two or more for the purposes of Jesus and His Kingdom are a fellowship meeting and an assembly for the purposes of The Kingdom. He is also in their midst when they gather this way.

In some countries Christians cannot meet openly in groups. If a church was required for fellowship, then they would rarely have any fellowship.

### **The structure of The Body**

*Act 6:1 And in those days, when the number of the disciples was multiplied, there arose a murmuring of the Grecians against the Hebrews, because their widows were neglected in the daily ministrations.*

*Act 6:2 Then the twelve called the multitude of the disciples unto them, and said, It is not reason that we should leave the word of God, and serve tables.*

*Act 6:3 Wherefore, brethren, look ye out among you seven men of honest report, full of the Holy Ghost and wisdom, whom we may appoint over this business.*

*Act 6:4 But we will give ourselves continually to prayer, and to the ministry of the word.*

*Act 6:5 And the saying pleased the whole multitude: and they chose Stephen, a man full of faith and of the Holy Ghost, and Philip, and Prochorus, and Nicanor, and Timon, and Parmenas, and Nicolas a proselyte of Antioch:*

*Act 6:6 Whom they set before the apostles: and when they had prayed, they laid their hands on them.*

The structure of The Body is very flat. Jesus is at the top of it and every-one else is under Him, being guided by The Holy Spirit in all they do. All have various different roles and giftings, so that they can properly perform their role in the body.

There are two basic categories of service in The Kingdom: Those ministering spiritually to others.

Those ministering physically to others.

The mature elders and similar Minister spiritually to The Body while the deacons and similar look after the administered and maintenance side (physical) of The Body.

This division in service was ordained by God in The Temple, so it is a principle of His for the groups in The Body that worship and/or Minister together.

There is also a third category where everyone is required to minister to each other.

The spiritual ministers, minister to people and help them mature to be the person they can be in Jesus. They are the ones who train up leaders and guide people using their gifts. This is the function of elders of which the pastor is one. They minister to each other and the body and not just the pastor to the elders.

The deacons look after the daily running of the church and its administrative needs. As they do this God matures them to eventually become spiritual ministers. This is not to say we are not to minister to others as all Christians are the minister to each other. But they are recognised as having the maturity to help people who have problems in their life.

In Acts 6, the roles are stated as follows:

Elders look after the spiritual side of things. Deacons look after the administrative side of things.

The Holy Spirit guides both groups.

When the church has this division correct, then the world will not intrude on the spiritual side of things as that deacons will deal with the way the world interacts with the administrative and similar needs of The Body and not the Elders unless it is really necessary for them to do so.

In a Christian family the parent does both of these roles to their children. The true family is a life that is fellowship which is why as a parent you need to learn how to relate correctly to your children so that God and His values are taught to them.

### **The Work of The Body**

For The Body to work properly, each member must express God's quality of Love to each other. This is so each will serve others in the right attitude and be able to help them to their part in The Body.

The work of The Body is to serve Jesus their King. He tells them:

What they are to do for Him

When they are to do it for Him

How they are to do it for Him

Where they are to do it for Him

They serve the King and promote:

The Will of the King

His Kingdom

His values (moral, spiritual)

With the same attitudes He has which is reflected in the quality of Love they demonstrate as they serve Him and others, as well as in the way they take care of all they are steward of on His behalf. Their:

Spirit

Body

Soul

Mind

Physical things

Family and other people

Their relationship with each member of the Trinity.

Their example is Jesus. Who did the Will of The Father in everything, Who went around preaching, teaching and demonstrating the authority of God over all the works of Satan as well as over creation, then trained others to do His work!

The early members of the Body (Apostles and early disciples) did the work Jesus did.

There were no Denominations, churches, Bible Colleges, Mission boards or similar. They knew Jesus and His teachings and that was all that mattered:

According to Matt 6:33, Bible Colleges, Denominations etc., are not necessary to do the work of Jesus. They did not even exist

then! For many years there was not even a New Testament!

As long as you are led by The Holy Spirit, Jesus will provide all the training you need and prepare you and the ministry you are to do for Him so you are able to do it. All you need to do is to wholeheartedly walk on the path God has prepared for you from before creation and you will do all He requires of you.

Bible Colleges and similar are for the purposes of the denomination and/or church system man has established. God does not need them! But man does for his purposes.

Others may guide and help you, but it is your responsibility to study to see what God desires of you and if you do attempt to study this The Holy Spirit will help you in this.

*Acts 17:11. For those Jews who were there were nobler than those Jews who were in Thessalonica, and they were hearing gladly from the word every day while they were distinguishing from Scripture whether these things were so.*

*Jn 16:17 Yeshua answered and said: "My teaching is not Mine, but from him who sent Me. "Whoever is willing to do his will understands my teaching, whether it is from God or whether I speak for my own pleasure."*

*Jn 16:13."But whenever The Spirit of The Truth comes, he will lead you into the whole truth, for he will not speak of his own will, but he shall speak whatever he shall hear and he shall reveal the future to you."*

### **Jesus left us two commandments:**

The Law of Love:

*Jn 13:34-35. "I give a new commandment to you: 'Love one another; just as I have loved you, you should also love one another. Every person will know by this that you are my disciples, if you shall have love one to the other."*

And the command to preach, teach (disciple) and represent the Kingdom which can be summarized from all the statements of it in the Gospels as:

*"All power (authority) is given unto me in heaven and in earth. Go ye therefore,*

*and teach all nations,*

*baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost:*

*Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you*

*And that repentance and remission of sins should be preached in My name among all nations, beginning at Jerusalem. He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned.*

*And these signs shall follow them that believe;*

*In my name shall they cast out devils;*

*they shall speak with new*

*tongues; They shall take up*

*serpents;*

*and if they drink any deadly thing, it shall not hurt them;*

*they shall lay hands on the sick, and they shall recover and,*

*lo, I am with you always,*

*even unto the end of the world."*

Jesus said that if we loved Him, we would do these things. So, if you are not doing these things you need to find out why and deal with it so that when you face Jesus and are judged for your life you will be declared by Him to be a good and faithful servant of His.

Service in The Body is a privilege and not a right! It is a gift from God and is only possible because of God's Love, Mercy, His Redemption and Calvary and not of anything you can do except to

have faith and trust in Jesus and in all He said and did.

Jesus does not interact with denominations or churches as these are set up by man and usually serve the legal requirements of the denomination as well. Jesus interacts with the body as it is the organisation He set up.

Because members of the body are in denominations and churches, Jesus appears to interact with these organisations.

When the purposes of the church or denomination aligns with His purposes, they are then serving His Kingdom and His Body. Until then they divide it.

### **The church**

The True church is called The Body of Christ. It is made up of all true believers in heaven and on earth. Its purpose is to serve Jesus and by their activities to bring Him Glory and honour.

They are citizens of His Kingdom. On earth they are also His representative whose purpose is to teach, preach and demonstrate The Kingdom, of God as well as to demonstrate its superiority over Satan and his kingdom, plunder it and to defend against it. They promote The Kingdom of God and not any denomination or church body.

In all that they do they point to their King Jesus and indeed, their purpose on earth is to point to Jesus and tell others what Jesus has done for them and to demonstrate it and The Kingdom of God by their life. It is this activity that separates those in heaven from those on earth.

Denominations, church organisations and factions in these are not The Body and exist for the purposes of the Laws of the Land! They have no representative in heaven and cannot be a part of it. The people can be but the organisation cannot.

God already has the organisation He desires for His Body and anything man places on The Body only divides it.

The Body is one and indivisible, united through The Holy Spirit and

not through the laws of man or Denomination. It has one common purpose. To do the Will of its King and head, Jesus and demonstrates His type of love in all it does.

It is the true *ekklesia*. The people called out of the world Satan controls. When any of its members meet it is called an assembly. An assembly is Two or more people meeting for the purposes of Jesus and the Kingdom of God.

The guidelines of this assembly are Those of God. The Holy Spirit leads the assembly, guiding it to do the work of Jesus and The Kingdom. Where ever it is necessary, the assembly follows any guidelines the laws of a land impose on it, as long as they do not contravene any Law of God.

An assembly meeting is different to going to a church meeting where non-Christians attend because you are going to a meeting with fellow brothers and sisters and not with those who are not of Jesus. All have been adopted by The Father so you are also meeting on behalf of your stepbrother, King Jesus as well as other spiritual 'family' members. When you are meeting for His purposes it is fellowship. Otherwise it is just socialising.

### **The Body has a fivefold relationship.**

To The Father, whom they worship

To Jesus, their King and head who they serve

To The Holy Spirit who guides and empowers them

To each member of The Body, to which they are either a brother or sister because of The Father's adoption of them

To Satan, his followers and his world system. They destroy or negate His activities.

A member of the Body has all these relationships simultaneously, but usually demonstrates those appropriate to the circumstances they are in at that time

Unfortunately most Christians do not realise this and so do not actively work in all of them when required by God.

## The work of The Body.

The work of the Body is to worship God as well as to bring Him Glory and Honour. It does this in the way it carries out its service to Jesus.

The Body and the Kingdom are so intertwined, that the work of the Kingdom is the work of The Body! Unless you are doing the work of The Kingdom in the way God desires it to be done, you are not worshipping God or bringing Him Glory and Honour:

Only as you are guided by the Holy Spirit in all things will you do the Will of God in all things and serve Him as He desires you serve Him.

## Definitions of the word 'Church'

*Mat 16:18. "Also I say to you, that you are Kaypha (Peter), and upon this stone I shall build my church (ekklessia) and the gates of Sheol will not withstand it."*

The church meant here was the assembly of people who God had called out of the world system of Satan who had separated themselves from the things of Satan to the things of Jesus.

This announcement was made before there was any denomination, church group as we know it or other type of Christian organisation. So these cannot be what Jesus was referring too when He made this statement.

He was talking about the people who made up The Body of people who followed Jesus as their Lord.

You can see from what follows in Webster's definition how Satan has hidden the true meaning through the definitions of the word 'church'.

Smith's dictionary is closer to what Jesus meant and gives a reasonable concise summary of the church that Jesus referred to in the above statement.

Websters

CHURCH, n.

*1. A house consecrated to the worship of God, among Christians; the Lords house. This seems to be the original*

*meaning of the word. The Greek, to call out or call together, denotes*

*an assembly or collection. But, Lord, a term applied by the early Christians to Jesus Christ; and the house in which they worshipped was named from the title. So church goods, bona ecclesiastica; the Lords day, dies dominica.*

*2. The collective body of Christians, or of those who profess to believe in Christ, and acknowledge him to be the Savior of mankind. In this sense, the church is sometimes called the Catholic or Universal Church.*

*3. A particular number of christens, united under one form of ecclesiastical government, in one creed, and using the same ritual and ceremonies; as the English church; the Gallican church; the Presbyterian church; the Romish church; the Greek church.*

*4. The followers of Christ in a particular city or province; as the church of Ephesus, or of Antioch (These were assemblies and not denominations or churches in a modern sense).*

*5. The disciples of Christ assembled for worship in a particular place, as in a private house. Col 4.*

*6. The worshipers of Jehovah or the true God, before the advent of Christ; as the Jewish church.*

*7. The body of clergy, or ecclesiastics, in distinction from the laity. Hence, ecclesiastical authority.*

*8. An assembly of sacred rulers convened in Christs name to execute his laws.*

*9. The collective body of Christians, who have made a public profession of the Christian religion, and who are united under the same pastor; in distinction from those who belong to the same parish, or ecclesiastical society, but have made no profession of their faith.*

CHURCH, v.t. To perform with any one the office of returning thanks

in the church, after any signal deliverance, as from the dangers of child-birth.

Smiths Dictionary

Church

*1. The derivation of the word is generally said to be from the Greek kuriakon, "belonging to the Lord". But the derivation has been too hastily assumed. It is probably connected with kirk, the Latin circus, circulus, the Greek kuklos, (kuklos), because the congregations were gathered in circles.*

*2. Ecclesia, the Greek word for church, originally meant an assembly called out by the magistrate, or by legitimate authority.*

*It was, in this last sense, that the word was adapted and applied by the writers of the New Testament to the Christian congregation.*

In the one Gospel of St. Matthew, the church is spoken of no less than thirty-six times as "the kingdom." Other descriptions or titles are hardly found in the evangelists.

It is Christ's household, Mat 10:25,

The salt and light of the world, Mat 5:13; Mat 5:15,

Christ's flock, Mat 26:31; John 10:15,

Its members are the branches growing on Christ the Vine, John 15;

But the general description of it, not metaphorical but direct, is that it is a kingdom. Mat 16:19.

From the Gospels we learn that Christ was about to establish his heavenly Kingdom on earth, which was to be the substitute for the Jewish Temple and kingdom, soon doomed to destruction (Mat 21:43).

The Day of Pentecost is the birthday of the Christian church. Before,

they had been individual followers of Jesus; now they became His 'body', united by His Spirit. On the evening of the Day of Pentecost, the members of which the Church consisted were:

Apostles;

Disciples;

Converts.

In Act 2:41, we have indirectly exhibited the essential conditions of church communion. They are:

Baptism, implying on the part of the recipient repentance and faith;

Apostolic Doctrine; Fellowship with the Apostles;

The Lord's Supper;

Public Worship.

The real Church consists of all who belong to the Lord Jesus Christ as His disciples, and are one, united by The Holy Spirit: in love, in character, in hope, in Christ as the head of all, though as the body of Christ it consists of many parts.

### **Denominations and The Kingdom**

When you became a Christian, you became a citizen of The Kingdom of God and a member of The Body. Your primary allegiance is to your King, Jesus. You do not become a member of a denomination or church or similar except for the legal purposes of man or the denomination.

The moment a minister tries to take away the authority of Jesus by interposing themselves between Jesus and you, they have overstepped their authority. They have taken His place. Instead of nurturing and serving as gifts from Jesus to serve the church they rule as masters. Advising what Jesus says through Him is different top Him telling you what He or the denomination thinks you should do

Ministers are servants and guides according to Jesus and not rulers (Eph 4:11-12). They are to give themselves to prayer and fasting

according to the Book of Acts (so they can hear God and serve His Body) and not to administrative work (Acts 6). This fasting is as God defines it in the Old Testament.

Jesus is King (ruler) and The Holy Spirit the guide of those in the Kingdom of God. So, if these are not in place in a person's life another has usurped any of their rule in a person. Then at worst the person is not in the Kingdom of God and at best they are possibly not in a correct relationship with God.

We have manmade structures and this is the problem with churches. They attempt to unify through man's methods and administrative structures and not through the unity The Holy Spirit provides. So reason and man's methods and/or denominational beliefs becomes the criteria for unity.

The Holy Spirit is not considered necessary or used as a guide as the rules of man have become more important than The Holy Spirit's guidance and The Bible.

Thus, more of the world's methods are used and The Holy Spirit becomes less and less important. The successful methods of man's management and expansion are used and are copied because they appear to work. They are no longer led by The Holy Spirit and are comfortable in the system they have created.

In a sense they become religious, doing man's way of things that appear to work rather than God's ways of doing things.

To restore the church God has to remove the system they have created and this is starting to happen. Churches are having problems balancing budgets as God removes disillusioned people from them and the money coming in is reduced. Natural disasters are also wiping out churches and their surrounding areas removing ministers and their livelihoods.

Jesus will continue to remove the infrastructure until they have nothing left but Him. This reaches its peak in the tribulation.

We are being trained for this time of cleansing of the church and we need to be ready to step in and point those that will listen, to Jesus.

Are you ready to survive what He is going to do and minister to those

in the church who have lost all in this purging?

### **The Body and The Kingdom of God**

*The Christian life is Kingdom based and not church or denomination based. It is based on the Will of The King and not the will of the church or denomination.*

*This is why it is focused on The King and His requirements of you and not what a church or denomination desires you to do. Although these may line up at times.*

Jesus and the early church were primarily concerned with evangelism and discipling. They did not have famous people to do the work, only people who obeyed Jesus, even if it cost them their life. There were no super spiritual leaders, only mature people who loved Jesus and serve Him out of this love. All Glory was given to God and no man was given any glory or treated as something special. They knew all that happened was a result of the workings of God (1 Cor 3:6, 1 Cor 15:10). They were respected for their maturity, wisdom and relationship with Jesus and were not exalted or praised for what God did through them.

So, people consulted them in regards to spiritual matters because of this. They preached and demonstrated Jesus and His Kingdom and by the demonstration of the Authority The Kingdom many were added to the body of believers and The Kingdom of God!

### **The Denomination and Kingdom of God**

The Body of Christ represents the Kingdom of God. Unfortunately, The Kingdom got hidden by the denominational church. This is because the denominational church does not usually preach the Kingdom of God or demonstrate it because it does not correctly understand its relationship to The Kingdom.

Until it does it will be a poor representation of what God wanted to establish on earth.

It will not be a body that represents and demonstrates His Kingdom and through this demonstration rescue many from the kingdom of his enemy, establish them as a citizen of The Kingdom training them to

disciple others for The Kingdom.

### **Building The Kingdom.**

People try to build up and expand the denomination or church thinking they are building up or expanding the Kingdom. But they are not.

Jesus said that The Kingdom is in you and not in any building structure or organisation.

*Act 7:47 But Solomon built him an house.*

*Act 7:48 Howbeit the most High dwelleth not in temples made with hands; as saith the prophet,*

*Act 7:49 Heaven is my throne, and earth is my footstool: what house will ye build me? saith the Lord: or what is the place of my rest?*

*Act 7:50 Hath not my hand made all these things?*

So they fail to build up the Kingdom of God as they are building buildings and organisational structures and not the individual citizens of The Kingdom which is the true House of God!

Jesus said that He would build His church. He would use those to build The Kingdom that let Him use them. But they would be doing what He required of them through Love for Him and not from the necessary obedience to a Law or ritual (as the church of Israel had been) or denomination.

### **The Law of The Kingdom**

There is only one moral law in the universe. The Law of The Kingdom of God. All other moral laws are in part or whole a reception or rejection of this. The Mosaic Law was a reflection of the law of The Kingdom of God but has been superceded by The Law of Love (Jn 13:34-35, Acts 15).

The Law of The Kingdom is Love because the Kingdom is an expression of God who is pure Love. If it is not for this Love we would not exist.

The Law of The Kingdom applied from before eternity and creation and will apply after these are gone. The Kingdom law of Love is the primary law The Body must obey this Law and all else God has created in some way is a reflection of this Law.

The Ceremonial Mosaic Law applied only from Moses to when Jesus died, as He replaced it with a new covenant. The Mosaic moral law still applies it is just some parts have been made redundant and in the case of the food laws were negated by Jesus in Acts 10:16.

The spiritual principles in it are still valid as they are eternal. But they are now measured by obedience to The Law of Love and not to a written legal system which The Mosaic Law was.

Because the Law of Love is not legalistic and is not written down, we need The Guidance of The Holy Spirit to interpret it as God desires us to live and apply it in our life.

Jesus, through His death, made it possible for all people born on earth to be reconciled with God and His Kingdom and not just with Himself (Eph. 2:16, Col. 1:20). However, this reconciliation occurs only if a person accepts Jesus as their Lord as well as what He has done. But the potential is there for all on earth to be reconciled (Heb 10:10).

The Body of Christ reflects the fellowship we will have in heaven. The traditional church is not The Body of Christ, but is a meeting of people who profess to be Christian and at times may approximate the love and fellowship we will have in heaven. Those belonging to The Body will be doing The Work of The Kingdom rather than the work of a denomination and by their fruits you will know who they belong too: The Kingdom and The Body or a denomination or both.

They will be the ones who are frustrated because the denomination/ church does not do the work of Jesus and are the ones rejected and cast out if they raise this issue and pursue it.

When Jesus died, He established a New Covenant (Testament) based on The Kingdom of God and summarised by the following verse:

*Heb 10:16–17 This is the covenant that I will make with them after those days, saith the Lord, I will put my laws into*



*their hearts, and in their minds will I write them; And their sins and iniquities will I remember no more.*

This was to signify the presence of the Holy Spirit given to each one of the followers of Jesus after He ascended to heaven. There was no longer a need for a temple or a high priest. The Mosaic Law and its sacrificial system were no longer applicable and the temple was removed to signify this in 70 AD.

The Holy Spirit marks us as belonging to The Kingdom of God and His Temple.

Jesus also removed the blockages between God and ourselves so we can go directly to God (through Jesus Jn 14:6) and do not need any other intermediary or place to pray and worship, like a temple or church. He alone is sufficient for all our spiritual needs and is our High Priest. We can worship where we are, when we want too and need no one else to be there to do this. All you need is a desire to worship and to have intimacy with The Father, Jesus or The Holy Spirit.

You have a relationship with all three members of The Trinity. So, the relationship with each of them must be cultivated individually if you would be intimate with God in a complete way and not just with one or two members of The Trinity.

### **The New Covenant (Rom 8)**

The New Covenant and The New Testament are different.

A testament is what a person leaves by His death, which in the case of Jesus is our redemption. Only one person leaves it.

A covenant is a relationship between two people and in this case is an agreement by God to put His spirit in us when we follow Jesus as Our Lord as a citizen of His kingdom.

*Heb 10:16 This is the covenant that I will make with them after those days, saith the Lord, I will put my laws into their hearts, and in their minds will I write them;*

*Heb 10:17 And their sins and iniquities will I remember no more.*

The New Covenant was mediated by Jesus and witnessed to by Calvary and is based on God's Love and Grace. As the old commandments were no longer applicable a new commandment was required that would express this new covenant.

*Jn 13: 34-35 A new commandment I give unto you, That ye love one another; as I have loved you, that ye also love one another. By this shall all men know that ye are my disciples, if ye have love one to another.*

This now replaces The Law and is the only real commandment of the New Testament that Jesus gave and which is the basis of all other New Testament directives. It is the basis of all the moral commandments of The Law and so if you keep this Law of Love you will satisfy all God's legal requirements.

*Rom 13:10 Love worketh no ill to his neighbour: therefore love is the fulfilling of the law.*

Salvation is a relationship (Jn 17:3) and this new commandment shows the type of relationship it is. A relationship based on Love!

### **What is the purpose of The Body?**

The Body of Christ on earth is used by God to further His Kingdom and also to bring Him Glory, Honour and Praise as well as to worship Him through obedience to Him and also to show God's Love and Grace in all they do. They are also to demonstrate the authority of The Kingdom of God over His enemy, Satan, and by this bring Jesus Glory and Honour as well as expand The Kingdom of God.

Everything a church does should be directed to these things or it will result in glory and honour to man and be a form of idolatry. Churches do not do God's Will if they do not demonstrate, preach or teach the Kingdom of God, of which the church is supposed to be an example of in this world.

When you become a Christian and follower of Jesus the minister invites you to join the church or denomination. You already are a citizen of The Kingdom of God so why do you have to join a church or denomination as you are part of the true church. The minister should

be asking you to join their fellowship of Kingdom orientated believers in that church. Anything else is not Biblical but for man's purposes.

The exception to this is if the laws of the land or Jesus require you to belong to a denomination or church. In which case you must obey the laws of the land and join one. A follower of Jesus lives in and for The Kingdom of God and may attend a church but the denomination or church is not important to them.

### **Is Jesus in the church building?**

Jesus said that where two or three people were gathered in His Name (in other words to do His Will or purposes) He was in their midst. Nowhere does He say He is in a building. In fact, God says no building can contain Him. He is in His Kingdom which is in His citizens on earth and in Heaven, its true base for us.

So, if the church meets for the purposes of Jesus. Then He is in their midst. The presence of the building is irrelevant.

### **The invisible church**

To many people in the western world a church is usually a good, moral place which they have little or no interaction with and have no idea what happens there. In a sense, to many it may as well be a secret society as they have little or no idea what it is or does.

They are attracted by New Age, Masonic lodges, Satanism or religions that appear to have spiritual power and authority in which people can get involved on a personal basis. They attract people through Satan demonstrating his 'powers' through his followers. These religions and cults give a person a purpose and interaction with the spiritual which is lacking in most churches. This is because the church does not teach or demonstrate The Kingdom of God or its Authority over Satan and his works.

However, once a church walks in God's quality of love and demonstrates the authority and power of Jesus (signs and wonders and deliverance etc.,) and not just use the world's methods to sustain their budgets and grow in numbers, people will see it is different to religions and cults and as they see it overcome demons, illness and other works of

Satan then they will see Jesus as being greater than the New Age or Satan. The church must show this or die spiritually.

According to the faith of the people in the church will this be done. As the church has done little or none of this it has become more secular and worldly so that Jesus said only 20% of people who call themselves Christian will go up in the rapture. Satan even declared at a meeting that 80% of the world was controlled by Him.

Be careful which group you belong too!

Do you demonstrate The Authority of The Kingdom over Satan and his works or do you just go to church and live a morally good life but have no personal relationship with God.

The 80% remaining after the rapture knew of Jesus but did not have a 24/7 relationship with Him and The Holy Spirit.

Until a church can do these things it is not going to be part of The Body or to do the work of Jesus, hinder Satan's Kingdom, rescue people from Satan's influences or destroy his works. It may as well be a social club of high moral standards or a secret society for a few who know the ritual and language of the church.

### **Which church do you belong too?**

The church you represent is the one you belong too.

When asked what church you go to, many Christian will name a denomination or non-affiliated church. By this Satan has managed to hide The Kingdom of God.

It also shows what you focus on.

Either The Kingdom of God or the requirements of the denomination. The fact the denomination is promoted by most is why The Kingdom is hidden from non-Christians.

This is one of the many things Satan has done to hide The Kingdom. A major one was to remove Mark 16;17-18 using a lie to do this so that The Authority of The Kingdom is not expressed and people cannot see Jesus, The Kingdom and Satan do not exist.

### **Kingdom Living**

The principles of The Kingdom express themselves in creation and they are written on the hearts of men by The Holy Spirit so they can be seen by man in God's creation. Even scientists who do not believe in Jesus recognise there is order in the universe but do not ascribe it to God.

As you express the relationship you have with The King you either follow these principles (being led by The Holy Spirit) or follow man's principles expressed by a church or denomination in their rules and requirements that are additional too or which may modify what The Bible teaches.

If the guidance and empowerment of The Holy Spirit are no longer sought and deliverance from the ravages of Satan on people no longer is done then the church activities become little different to what the world does and there is little to differentiate the methods of the church from that of the world.

If the church/denomination does not preach The Kingdom it does not preach a purpose greater than that which the world offers and has little to offer the world. It will be ineffective for the purposes of evangelism in this current New Age environment.

Without the guidance of The Holy Spirit, deliverance or other manifestations of the Kingdom of God the church becomes little more than a social worker using reason and man's method giving lip service to The Holy Spirit and the Kingdom of God. The tools of organisation and/or methods of working that Satan promotes in the world are used as they 'work' but are 'Christianised' to be acceptable to the denomination or church.

The denominations promote a social gospel having not the power and authority of God so it must use man's (Satan's world) methods and devices.

There is also the opposite end of this situation where The Spirit is followed and deliverance is carried out but excesses occur as Christianity becomes emotion driven and not Biblically driven so that the guidance of the Holy Spirit becomes hidden or obscured as it all becomes an emotional experience and not a spiritual one. This results in the emotional experience being sought and not Jesus and/or the guidance of The Holy Spirit. This is a form of idolatry.

Satan has trained the non-spirit-led church well. Deliverance is made to appear difficult even dangerous and something to be feared or done

after long study and striving for holiness. Demons are allowed to manifest to further make people hesitant to work in deliverance. Yet deliverance is so simple and non-intrusive when it is done the way Jesus desires it to be done. (See my book called 'Deliverance and Spiritual Warfare primer' for details).

The churches do not demonstrate the supernatural power of The Kingdom over Satan and his works so lose people to the new age which appears to have this authority and power over demons. But the demons pretend this to capture the eternal souls of the people who believe they control them.

Satan cripples the church through their ignoring the things of The Kingdom and everyone continues in the church as if nothing is wrong. They have been duped by Satan into believing what they do in church is normal to the Christian life and the expression of The Kingdom and they wonder why their life does not do more for Jesus! It is not they do not want to do more Jesus. It is just they are not taught how by an institutionalized religion that protects itself and perpetuates itself within the limits of safe parameters and control of the people through denominational rules.

There is also the witchcraft spirit in a church that controls the people for the purposes of the people in charge. People do what the leaders say or they are considered to be troublemakers or spiritually immature and are ignored spiritually and are even cast out of the church so that they will not 'negatively' influence other members of the church or lead them into denominational error.

Often the leaders unknowingly guide the church for their own self-esteem purposes or out of pride, feelings of inadequacy or denominational purposes and not as the Holy Spirit desires it led. This is a major problem in denominations where minister put the denomination and/or church agenda and their advancement in the denomination ahead of what Jesus desires them to do.

### **Unity of The Spirit**

*Eph 4:3-6. And to be diligent to keep the harmony of The Spirit in the bonds of peace. And that you would be in one body*

*and One Spirit as when you were called in one hope of your calling. For THE LORD JEHOVAH is One, and the faith is one, and the baptism is one. And One is God The Father of all, and over all, and with all and in us all.*

*Amos 3:3 Can two walk together, except they be agreed?*

*Gal 3:28 There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither bond nor free, there is neither male nor female: for ye are all one in Christ Jesus.*

Why do people ignore these verses?

Why do they promote churches and denominations when there are none in heaven?

Why do they ignore The Kingdom?

When man stops promoting his ideas of what The Kingdom is and turns to what God describes it is. Then there will be true unity

It is only as you walk in unity with God, being unified through The Holy Spirit in all Christians that you will you walk in unity with Him and other Christians. The Holy Spirit gives us the instructions of God so we know what God wants us to do. And it is only as we listen to Him will we walk in harmony with God and the other members of The Body who follow Jesus fulfilling what God desires us to do (Jn 16:13, Job 32:8).

This is how The Body is supposed to function. All are led by The Holy Spirit and all work in unity of purpose in accordance with the Will of Jesus. Anybody or committee or governance that sets itself up to make laws for the interaction of The Body (unless set up and guided by The Holy Spirit) is interfering with God's guidance through the Holy Spirit and limiting God's guidance in people by making The Holy Spirit's leading subordinate to man's judgment.

It is only as each person is led by the Holy Spirit will they perform the role God requires them to perform in the body so that it will function as it should. They will also know when their role changes and be prepared for it by The Spirit.

Satan knows this which is why people who are led by The Spirit are ridiculed and/or forced out of many churches or have The Spirit's leading quenched in them through control spirits working through the leadership in a church.

The fact that there are factions within denominations and churches show that this unity of The Holy Spirit is not there. This means that those who promote their denomination, church, faction or theological viewpoint do not promote The Kingdom or they would be listening to The Holy Spirit and promoting The Kingdom of God and removing the disunity of The Body in the denominations!

By their fruit you will know them said Jesus. So according to the way a person lives and relates to others in The Body will be how you know whether they are of The Body or of the denomination/church system.

Remember! You will be judged for how you dealt with what you knew and understood about Jesus and His Kingdom and not what others say you should you know. This is why you need to study The Bible to see what it says about The Kingdom as you will have little of it shown to you in most churches..

If you knowingly did not promote The Kingdom and the unity of The Spirit that is integral to the Body of Christ then you could be in a precarious position in regard to salvation when you face Jesus and give an account to Him of your life. Depending whether you did it out of ignorance or deliberately for your own purposes.

People are without excuse for not promoting what they know of The Kingdom of God or learning how to do this. Jesus spoke only of The Kingdom and His example was to preach, teach and demonstrate The Kingdom of God (Matt 4:23) and He is our example!

So why is the church not promoting the unity of The Kingdom? Or teaching The Kingdom in the way Jesus taught it? Satan has entered into its teachings and corrupted them so at times they teach what he desires and not what God desires. Otherwise there would be no disunity amongst Christians and The Bible would be unconditionally believed and obeyed.

How does he teach what he desires taught?

He stops them teaching the whole truth so that only the part He desires not taught is left out is preached so that, while it is not wrong, it is not the whole Will of God!.

Satan teaches enough truth for people to accept his error and deceive the church and denomination so that they follow the teaching of The Kingdom that will not cause Satan any problems.

This is why evangelism has become specialised, spiritual warfare non-existent against Satan and deliverance is considered unnecessary by many Christians.

### **The Body belongs to Jesus.**

He places people where He needs them to be for His Will to be done. The Holy Spirit trains and guides people for their role in The Body and The Father provides for the needs of The Body on behalf of Jesus

As people walk in the principles Matt 6:33 each day. They are being trained and placed where Jesus needs them to be at that moment of time and they will be doing what He needs them to be doing at that point of time. You will be in the place you need to be to serve Him and do His Will and you will do your part in The Body. So that it will function as it should and the purposes of The Kingdom of God will be advanced.

While Christians may believe they are isolated or doing little for Jesus. If they are obeying Him then they are where He desires them to be for His Purposes. It is just we cannot see this to appreciate what He is using us for.

The good soldier does not need to know the plans of the general but to just do his part properly.

### **Unity is necessary to be a follower of Jesus**

Churches should be in unity in The Body and have no denominational differences. To preserve denominational differences is to make the denomination an idol as it is placed before the unity we should have through The Holy Spirit.

Any denomination that will not relate to others is in danger of being a

cult as it usually has to modify or ignore Bible requirements to keep any incorrect attitudes to other Christians or denominations/churches, one of them being the Law of Love.

Any denomination half-heartedly relating to other denominations is in danger of hypocrisy as well as idolatry. Idolatry is putting anything before God's requirements and the Law of Love requires you to love other Christians and to fellowship with them to your mutual benefit.

For one church to have more than they need and another not have what they need is to make any church knowingly withholding from another (and the leaders of it) guilty of covetousness or pride, putting their church before the needs of others (unless The Spirit says to withhold it). It is also a lack of trust in God's provision (Matt 6:33, 2 Cor 8:10-15). It is also bad stewardship and does not show God's Love to them. If they belonged to The Body of Christ this situation would not arise.

Not to share with another, if God tells you too, when you have and they do not, is against His Law of Love and is also disobedience. You are only a steward and not an owner of what you have. So, to knowingly disobey God in this stewardship and not repent will lead you to hell.

For one denomination to not relate to another as they think the other is not correct in their beliefs is pride unless there is something actually wrong, according to The Bible that the other denomination is doing. If there is nothing that they are doing wrong then why are there two denominations? To humbly not show the other that they are wrong according to the Bible is also a lack of love. If the other denomination will deliberately not accept the truth of The Bible then they are a cult. To sit there and criticise them and do nothing about telling them what The Bible says is a lack of God's quality of Love, gossip and slander.

A denomination is formed by a split or mass exodus from another denomination because they believe the old denomination is in error. The corollary is that only one denomination can ever really be right. So, which one of the denominations is the correct one? All the denominations, by their being different, say the others are not following Jesus as they should. This difference is what is needed to be dealt with. To know it is there and not deal with it is deliberate disobedience to

Jesus. Who desires all his followers to be in harmony with each other in The Body.

Often, the only real difference in denominations is the structure and the man-made rules of the denomination. And it is only the preservation of the denominational name and structure (identity) that stops unity of The Body of Christ. Why are they preserving a denominational name anyway? Why do they not promote Jesus in their name and not a person or place?

People forget we are only stewards and not owners of what God has placed us in charge of. To divide the body through keeping assets to ourselves that belong to God (which should be used to help other peoples and churches) is misuse of what God has given us to be His steward of.

To evangelize and area independent of the other churches in the area is pride or else you would ask them to join you and all would be done in unity without reference to what each denomination can afford to put into the outreach. Or what each denomination promotes as their beliefs. Or to what church the new converts are to attend. You are proclaiming The Kingdom of God and all churches in the area should belong to this Kingdom including yours and should work as a unity in this area. If you do not work with other churches you are really promoting your kingdom (denomination/church) at the expense of The True Kingdom.

Any church ignoring the evil or needs around it or being indifferent to them is being lukewarm and not expanding The Kingdom of God and tolerating the enemy expanding their kingdom around it. Jesus has said these people will risk being spewed out by Jesus by rejecting His will, becoming more and more like the world in its activities and attitudes.

Ministers knowingly promoting things for the sake of their church or denomination have made these an idol promoting disunity of The Holy Spirit and may not belong to God's Kingdom or they would be promoting unity of the Holy Spirit and expanding the Kingdom and not the denomination. These ministers also divide the Kingdom of God. Jesus says a kingdom divided will not stand. This perhaps is why

the Kingdom of God is not expanding as it should in many places and churches are dying spiritually and financially.

The reformation left the work of The Kingdom and The Holy Spirit out of it and concentrated on theology. It took away the supernatural, spiritual expression of The Kingdom. This left only theology as a way for a minister to express their faith and the denominational purposes took the place of the direction and guidance of The Holy Spirit. Is it any wonder ministers are denominational and church focussed?

Churches not meeting their budgets are not doing the work of Jesus as He promises to meet all their needs if they seek Him and His kingdom (do His work). The question arises as to whose work they are doing? If it is not God's whose is it?

Churches not defending Jesus, His Name and His things are not doing the work of The Kingdom and do not belong to Jesus possibly. For if He was their Lord they would be defending these things of His (Rom 10:9-10).

Any church or denomination tolerating in it things not of the Bible (such as homosexuality, same sex marriage or other non-biblical arrangements) is not of God and is a cult in danger of hell fire. People in it may be a part of The Body but not the denomination or church leadership (unless they agree to these things by staying with The Denomination). Because most Christians focus on what the church or denomination says the Christian life is, they are not listening to the Holy Spirit and doing what Jesus desires them to do for the Kingdom of God.

Any Christian who listens to the Holy Spirit and not the denomination or church representative is usually placed on the fringe so they cannot cause 'trouble' in the church. They may even be asked to leave by the minister, or leaders of the church to remove these 'disruptive' influences from their church.

God does not cast out those who seek Him and try to serve Him. Only Satan does that so he can maintain what he has in that church or to

replace them with his own version of 'Christian'.

If the denomination/church was The Body, they would not cast out those who caused problems in the church because they sought Jesus in a deeper level but would have embraced them.

Church members are taught to focus on what the denomination or church thinks or says God wants and not asked the Holy Spirit what Jesus desires. This is why you are not taught how to hear the Holy Spirit because He is really irrelevant in most churches. They do not teach that salvation is a relationship so do not teach how to relate to each member of The Trinity.

This attitude of listening to the minister only and not researching what is actually taught in the Bible is common to all denominations and churches. This is done so that people find only what the denomination or church says is in the Bible so that they will blindly follow what they are told and not cause problems. The Holy Spirit is the interpreter of The Bible (Jon 32:8) and promises to teach you what is there (Jn 16:13) if you really want to know (Jn 7:17).

We are told to search the scriptures daily if you would be worthy to be in The kingdom (Acts 17:11).

When people start to examine the Bible and do what it says. Then they will live as The Kingdom requires and will see how far from the truth most churches are.

Most churches do not listen to what the Holy Spirit wants them to do and wonder why they are not growing and are no longer relevant to society. God cannot use them as they are too busy maintaining or expanding a denomination or church and not ministering His Kingdom to people. It is only as The Holy Spirit leads a person in all aspects of their life, will they live as Jesus desires them to live and become productive members of The Body. Illustrating The Kingdom in all they do.

*Matt 7:21-22 .It is not everyone that says to me, 'My Lord, my Lord', who enters the Kingdom of Heaven, but whoever does the will of my Father who is in Heaven. Many will say to*

*me in that day, 'My Lord, my Lord, have we not prophesied in your name, and in your name have cast out demons, and have done many mighty works in your name?'*

*Like 6:46. "Why are you calling me, 'My Lord, my Lord", and you are not doing whatever I say?"*

### **The Problem with the Nicolaitans**

*"So hast thou also them that hold the doctrine of the Nicolaitanes, which thing I hate." (Rev 2:15)*

The root of the word Nicolaitans comes from Greek *nikao*, to conquer or overcome, and *laos*, which means people and which the word laity comes from. A good translation of Nicolaitan would be "those who prevail over the people."

The result is a two-class system of clergy and laity, as is found in many denominations today. The certified minister, who is allowed to minister in the denomination and the uncertified member of the congregation, who is not allowed to minister but may be given minor roles to serve in.

Jesus never set up or endorsed a hierarchical system of clergy and laity (ministers and congregation). In His system we are all under Jesus, guided by The Holy Spirit whose presence is in us so no one needs to be an intermediary between God and us. God lives in us so we do not need an intermediary.

Any authority that willingly promotes a clergy/laity division is false authority. It is not what Jesus wants as these people have setup their own kingdom. It can be argued they do not belong to The Kingdom of God as they cannot serve Jesus and themselves (denomination or church guidelines for ministry they accept instead of the Will or purposes of Jesus).

In the Church, there are some people who operate by the spirit of the Nicolaitan type who will control you any way they can. Using any they can: being older than you, guilt, blackmail, bribery, wrong spiritual authority. One of the most obvious Nicolaitan manoeuvres is often related directly to the preacher and their pulpit misusing the pulpit using the sermon to manipulate people to the way they or the

denomination/ church desires them to think.

Ministers are often so busy with programs and similar things that they neglect the work of Jesus and have to become Nicolaitan type people in a sense to keep these programs going 'encouraging' the congregation to support these projects at the expense of the work of God. Another tell-tale sign of a Nicolaitan spirit is the lack of desire or inability of a leader to allow those under them to lead in ministry or start a new ministry. Because they are too protective of the power (authority) they have or of the denomination requirements.

A true leader is secure in who they are in Christ. This allows them to encourage others to mature through experience and to be there for them in trouble and failure (2 Tim 2:2).

Jesus never setup a hierarchical system, He was The Lord God and all obeyed Him (1 Pet 2:25).

The structure of the Apostles was not hierarchical. They waited on the Holy Spirit for guidance and direction and ministered spiritually to the people. Others did the daily administration of the running of the *ekklēsia* (assembly) Acts 6:1-7.

They met for meals in houses where the host and hostess, whoever they were, supervised the proceedings. Mature Christians ministered as there was no one permanently in charge of ministering because all ministered as led by The Holy spirit.

This is the structure Jesus will bring back to those who minister as He does, and who will minister how, when and where he says.

They will minister in houses, coffee shops, restaurants, walking, etc. They will be small groups, fellowshiping as they do this. Ministry will not be at the whim or timetable or location of the minister but as needed. The person in charge will be the Holy Spirit and not man or woman.

The clergy /laity structure is only there for control purposes and to administer and preserve the property and influence the denomination or church has.

Churches should have treasure in heaven, where Jesus said to have it, and not here on earth where it consumes valuable resources maintaining something that has no eternal significances and only really caters to the pride or self-worth of people. Churches and denominations are the breeding ground of Nicolaitans which Jesus hates.

Examine your ministry carefully in case you are a Nicolaitan or partly one so you can repent and will be spared their punishment.

### **Verses used for the Spiritual Authority of a Pastor or Similar Authority**

1 Tim 5:12-13 refers to a situation where someone is mentoring a person spiritually and does not refer to a group situation. This is in line with 2 Tim 2:2.

Heb 13:7 This again refers to spiritual oversight again and not administrative oversight.

Heb 13:17 refers to the role of these oversees in regard to nurturing and caring for the souls of the people not in ruling over them.

(Eph. 1:22-23; 5:23; Col. 1:18, 1 Pet 2:25) The pastor is not the head (i.e., supreme and final authority, commander-in-chief) of the church. Jesus is.

All these verses refer to the pastor as a spiritual counsellor and not a ruler. Remember, deacons ran the church and the pastor was told to concentrate on spiritual things. So, references to a pastor can only be to the spiritual side of ministry. Even then it was under the guidance of The Holy Spirit. So, the pastor did not make any rules or conditions for ministry but only carried out that which The Holy Spirit told him.

### **What has God planned for the Body.**

There is a new move of God coming that will restore The Kingdom and The Body to their rightful place in Christendom., There are three coming revivals that will each increase in intensity, reaching their greatest impact just before the Anti-Christ of Satan is revealed.

Jesus will come and take The Body to its physical home in heaven so



that it does not suffer the horrors of the Great Tribulation and the Great Tribulation, which is reserved for those that have rejected Jesus in some way.

While the Great Tribulation occurs on earth, there will be a celebration feast in heaven. Then many of The Body will return to earth to help Jesus rule the earth for 1000 years. At the end of which time Satan is released from his prison and once again tries to destroy all he can of God's Kingdom, God's people and God's creation. He succeeds in destroying creation and a new undefiled creation then is created without any evil in it as Satan and his demons are no more.

This act of his (rebellion against Jesus) is the second witness against he and his demons. So that judgment and sentencing can now be passed on him.

This occurs at the Great White Throne Judgment where all are officially given their rewards in heaven or their sentencing to the Lake of Fire.

Then there is peace at last.

As it was in the beginning so it will be again. And all once more will be in unity and harmony with God and His Kingdom.

## Christian Fellowship

*The most important Christian fellowship you have is with:*

*The Father*

*The Lord Jesus The Christ and*

*The Holy Spirit*

*These fellowship arrangements result in salvation as well as the guidance and empowerment to live The Christian live.*

*Develop these fellowships if you would get to heaven*

### Definition

**Fellow:** from 'To tie or connect'. A fellow is connected with you in some way.

**Ship** (Saxon) 'to shape or form'. Hence the following definition of Fellowship:

*Two people bound together for a common purpose with the objective of building something, either physical or spiritual. For a Christian it is the body of Christ that is built up through building up one another because of their common focus and obedience on Jesus and His things. For the world it is meeting with a purpose to do something. Most of what the church calls Christian fellowship is often worldly in nature and is really socialising.*

Fellowship occurs when two or more members of The Body meet for the purposes of The King of The Kingdom of God. Otherwise it is just socialising.

In this section, the term fellowship is used to refer only to Christian fellowship but in reality fellowship first occurred in the garden between God, Adam and Eve.

### Redemption and fellowship

What does redemption have to do with fellowship

Redemption is all about the restoration of Fellowship: with God (Salvation) and Fellowship with each other, through the unity of The Holy Spirit in all of the redeemed. This undefiled state, that allows the presence of The Holy Spirit to be in us, is only possible because of the consequences of sin being dealt with at Calvary.

### **Fellowship with God**

God is a Trinity so you really fellowship with three people whose fellowship must be cultivated individually and not collectively. So, Fellowship with God is fellowship with The Father, The Lord Jesus and The Holy Spirit on an individual basis with each of them.

It is to be remembered that Salvation is a close fellowship relationship with The Father and Jesus (Jn17:3)

### **Five matters can be stated in regards to fellowship with God:**

God initiated it

Man Lost it

Jesus restored it

Faith is required for it

Our loving obedience and holiness is required to maintain it

### **God initiated fellowship with us**

God made us so we could have fellowship with Him. There can be no other reason for God to make us in His image (nature and character) except to be able to relate to Him. He did not need servants as He had the angels for that purpose.

For some reason, the fellowship we can have with God is different to that which the angels can have. It is possibly because the fact we have suffered on earth to obtain this fellowship and must do our part to maintain it as well as resist His enemy to continue to walk in this fellowship as He desires us too, makes it different to that of the angels and special to Him.

We who have not seen Him desire to be in fellowship with Him while many of those who have seen Him have rejected Him (demons).

### **Man Lost it**

Adam and Eve walked with God in a fellowship relationship but were tricked by Satan to reject God's authority (rebel against Him) and by this broke fellowship with God. They did not appreciate God's Love for them or what He did for them so followed what they thought was best for them.

Amongst other consequences of this fall from fellowship and following Satan was the inability to relate to God on a personal basis. This meant that they could not be with Him in His Kingdom until they rejected Satan and came to God and accepted His authority over them again. This relationship with God results from faith in whom Jesus is, what He has taught as well as the redemption He gave us at Calvary.

To approach God according to The Law, people had to sacrifice an animal in their place so that their defilement caused by their sin was removed through the act of the life of the animal being used to take their place and dying in their place. For a small farmer with a few animals the loss of one animal was a major cost. So, in faith they offered their animal believing God could replace it and even better multiply their offering.

The animal was punished for their sin just as Jesus was punished for ours, even though, just like the animal, He had done nothing wrong to deserve death.

### **Jesus restored our relationship with God for those who accepted His sacrifice at Calvary.**

Jesus died on the cross to replace the sacrificial animal so that we do not need to sacrifice an animal any more to enter His presence. Salvation was still by faith but it now became possible to be in God's presence on a second by second basis because all the defilement for sin (which stopped you approaching God) as well as the punishment for your sins being dealt with by Jesus at Calvary.

The result of Jesus taking on Himself our sin and its punishment meant that we no longer were defiled by sin and its consequences and

God now sees us as being undefiled and pure so that we can approach Him now at any time.

As we were no longer defiled, God could now place the presence of His Holy Spirit in us so that we would always be His 'Temple', when we were in a proper relationship with God. The righteousness (correct relationship) with God, that the Law could not give, Calvary gave so that there is no need to approach God through the offering of the life of an animal in our place.

This new access requires a personal sacrifice from you to be in continual fellowship with God through the making of Him as your Lord and the offering of yourself on a second by second basis for Him to use as He will. This is how a citizen of His Kingdom lives anyway. So, if you want to be a part of His Kingdom you offer yourself to Him to use on a continual basis or you may soon find you do not belong to His Kingdom.

This obedience to Jesus occurs because the person knows God only does what is best for them.

God has not called you to work for Him. He has called you to fellowship with Him and as a result of this love relationship to serve Him willingly, regardless of the cost and whether or not there is a reward for the service.

### **Fellowship with God requires faith, love, holiness and obedience**

You do not value something you do not desire and you will not pursue fervently something you do not believe exists.

Fellowship can often be stopped by a belief that you are not worthy to be in fellowship with God. So you do not desire it as you believe you are unworthy to obtain it. Usually it is expressed as:

*"How can God love me? I am such a bad/evil person and so unworthy."*

This is a wrong attitude as God does not see you that way unless you have completely rejected Him and gone over to Satan. God accepts you as you are and all He requires you to do is have faith in Him and what He offers you and then to wholeheartedly try to obey Him in all

the things He asks you to do. If you fail, then wholeheartedly repent, keep going and keep wholeheartedly trying to obey Him as that is all He desires you to do. You will not fail to go to heaven for trying with your whole heart and failing. You will go for not trying at all, depending on the reason for doing this.

Remember that God does not evaluate you by your results but by your heart attitude in doing what He asks.

### **There are five aspects to this faith:**

A belief that:

God exists as a Trinity

He desires to relate to you

You must believe it is possible to relate to Him as you are now

You must believe it is worthwhile to relate to Him

The desire to relate must be from Love and not from a desire to obtain things from Him.

### **Fellowship is found on the Mat 6:33 path of obedience**

As you try to obey God (and you will succeed) you walk on the path He has created for you individually from before the foundation of the world on which is fellowship with Him amongst all the other things you need. Fellowship is an automatic result of walking this path and should be sought and desired as you walk this path. God has gone before you on this path and prepared it so understands all that is on it and Jesus is there waiting, along with The Holy Spirit to walk with you, guide you through it and help you to live as you should as a Christian.

### **In Conclusion**

Fellowship with God is part of the normal Christian walk and if you do not have this fellowship. Then you need to examine why and correct any problems you have that stop this fellowship. Deliverance is usually required to correct problems stopping fellowship and this is perhaps the first step required in restoring your belief system to a place where you can believe you can have fellowship with God.

### **Fellowship in the New Testament**

The New Testament says little about fellowship. So what it says must be important.

Part of the normal Christian life is fellowship!

*(Act 2:42) And they continued stedfastly in the apostles' doctrine and fellowship, and in breaking of bread, and in prayers.*

In Heb 10:24-25 we are told to meet together to strengthen and encourage one another and this is a main purpose of fellowship. It is not just socializing as that can be done anywhere. But it is meeting for the purpose of encouraging each other in our common Christian faith in Jesus.

Remember that as we fellowship with each other Jesus is there and we fellowship with Him which is the main purpose He created us for.

God has called us to fellowship

*(1Co 1:9) God is faithful, by whom ye were called unto the fellowship of his Son Jesus Christ our Lord.*

God sees fellowship as very important and calls all His followers to be involved in fellowship with each member of The Trinity and each other.

We are not to fellowship with people who do not follow Jesus as Lord.

*(1Co 10:20) But I say, that the things which the Gentiles sacrifice, they sacrifice to devils, and not to God: and I would not that ye should have fellowship with devils.*

As fellowship has a spiritual element, involvement in it has spiritual implications and connotations and if you fellowship with those not of Jesus you will be affected adversely in some way.

You can have no fellowship with Satan or his citizens. This does not mean any social interaction. It means no spiritual interaction.

*(2Co 6:14) Be ye not unequally yoked together with unbelievers: for what fellowship hath righteousness with unrighteousness? and what communion hath light with darkness?*

Fellowship cannot be between Christian and non-Christian. Fellowship can have different purposes. One is ministering to the saints (fellow Christians). Another is encouraging each other in normal social interactions.

*(2Co 8:4) Praying us with much intreaty that we would receive the gift, and take upon us the fellowship of the ministering to the saints.*

As the spiritual is involved, people with different spiritual maturity will fellowship at different levels because their experience and knowledge is different. At times they will fellowship as equals and at other times there will be a mentoring in their fellowship to the newer Christians.

Fellowship is granted and not assumed or taken. It must be agreed to by the other person. After all, it is a relationship and all parties must want to have it.

*(Gal 2:9) And when James, Cephas, and John, who seemed to be pillars, perceived the grace that was given unto me, they gave to me and Barnabas the right hands of fellowship; that we should go unto the heathen, and they unto the circumcision.*

Like all relationships it takes two to tango.

Christian fellowship can only be with those who are citizens of The Kingdom of God.

*(Eph 3:9) And to make all men see what is the fellowship of the mystery, which from the beginning of the world hath been hid in God, who created all things by Jesus Christ:*

Those you are unable to have fellowship with you should try and lead them to Jesus.

*(Eph 5:11) And have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness, but rather reprove them.*

You reprove them by your lifestyle. By not agreeing to be a partaker of their evil or by explaining to them what God says about what they are doing and also demonstrating the benefits to their life of obeying God.

The basis of fellowship is the acceptance of The Gospel of The Kingdom

*(Php 1:5) For your fellowship in the gospel from the first day until now;*

It is through the unity in The Holy Spirit that results from accepting The Gospel of The Kingdom that fellowship occurs. Remember that Jesus never spoke of The Gospel of Salvation but only of The Gospel of The Kingdom of God (Matt 4:23)

We are in constant fellowship with The Holy Spirit

*(Php 2:1) If there be therefore any consolation in Christ, if any comfort of love, if any fellowship of the Spirit, if any bowels and mercies,*

The Holy Spirit's presence is in our spirit. So that we can have constant fellowship with Him and because of that we are never alone. You always have someone to talk too and fellowship with. So you are never alone.

He will talk to you if you want Him too and let Him, because He will not intrude into your mind except to warn you or guide you as is necessary for the purposes of The Kingdom of God. In fact, Jesus sent Him to lead you and guide you in your Christian walk. So, to not listen to Him is dangerous for a follower of Jesus.

There is a unity with others as we embrace suffering resulting from doing the work of Jesus

*(Php 3:10) That I may know him, and the power of his resurrection, and the fellowship of his sufferings, being made conformable unto his death;*

The attitudes that drive us to suffer for Jesus are not shared by all so that there is a special fellowship amongst

these people who have suffered that those who have not suffered do not know.

One of the reasons for evangelism is so that others can enter into fellow-ship with Jesus and us.

*(1Jn 1:3) That which we have seen and heard declare we unto you, that ye also may have fellowship with us: and truly our fellowship is with the Father, and with his Son Jesus Christ.*

It is callous not to tell others of salvation when you have been so freely given it to you by God.

No hypocrite or sinner can be in fellowship with Jesus or other Christians if they voluntarily do evil and do not repent.

*(1Jn 1:6) If we say that we have fellowship with him, and walk in darkness, we lie, and do not the truth:*

The requirement for Christian fellowship is to wholeheartedly obey Jesus in all you do and walk in His truth in all things.

*(1Jn 1:7) But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship one with another, and the blood of Jesus Christ his Son cleanseth us from all sin.*

The Holy Spirit is present unifying a fellowship when it is there for the purposes of Jesus.

*Act 15:25 It seemed good unto us, being assembled with one accord, to send chosen men unto you with our beloved Barnabas and Paul,*

## **Fellowship in General**

Fellowship can only take place in The Body of Christ. If Christ and His Kingdom and purposes are not central to the purpose of any meeting then it is not Christian fellowship.

Fellowship is also a result of having Stewardship of your relationships in their proper place so that you know when you are fellowship- ping (in the Christian meaning of the expression) and when you are

socialising.

Fellowshipping does not make you part of the body of Christ. Fellowship is the result of obedience to Jesus as Lord because you are part of his 'Body' already. When you relate to Jesus correctly you are in a correct relationship to others in His 'Body' through the unity of the Holy Spirit in all of you.

Only as you are one in The Holy Spirit with the other people you are fellowshipping with can it be as Jesus desires it to be. Fellowship based on anything else is really just a form of social interaction. Fellowship must be based on the Love of Christ in you so that there is no fear in it or it will be inhibited in some way

Worship and fellowship are different. Worship is to do with giving deference to someone you consider more worthy than yourself. The danger is that this person may become an idol and replace God. Fellowship is to do with a relationship between people whose focus is Jesus and His Will for their life. This focus is expressed in the reason they do things together.

Intimacy can occur in both fellowship and worshipping together. The degree of intimacy determines the depth of the relationship. This is why the most intimate fellowship a person can have is with their spouse of which sex is a part of this fellowship if properly done as it is a mandate of God to be fruitful and multiply and sex is how this is done.

Fellowship is an expression of the correct stewardship of relationships. As relationships and how we manage them are the basis of all we take to heaven then fellowship and its stewardship takes on significant importance.

Fellowship occurs when two or more like minded people gather to discuss a common interest or activity to do with Jesus and His purposes for them. The basis for Christian fellowship is Jesus and the love He develops in us for each other. It is the subject or purpose of the fellowship meeting that determines the direction and the intensity of the fellowship as well as what should be done during it. The deeper the intimacy that occurs between people the deeper the fellowship that

results.

What we call church these days is really a 'synagogue' type experience unlike the early church which met in homes, had no formal meeting structure as it was led by The Holy Spirit, shared a common meal and celebrated The Lord's Supper in the process. Jesus was the focus of the meeting and not procedure or ritual to maintain order. Procedure and ritual are only necessary when people are not led by the Holy Spirit and He is not in charge of the meeting.

Christian Marriage is the deepest and intimate fellowship relationship we have on earth and is second only to the relationship we individually have with The Father, Jesus and The Holy Spirit.

### **Purpose of Fellowship Meetings**

The Holy Spirit uses fellowship meetings for the encouraging of each other, through teaching and through sharing how God has blessed members, as well as through meeting the needs of each other (healing, deliverance, etc Heb 10:24,25).

Four objectives of fellowship are as follows:

1. To encourage, support and build up our self and each other in our common faith
2. To encourage ourself and each other to express our faith in loving service to God and others
3. To help us solve problems we or others have in our Christian walk through Godly counsel and the assistance of the more mature Christians there.
4. To meet and demonstrate the authority The Kingdom of God over Satan and his works, to the world.

This is why evangelism is so important as it is the expression of the Authority of The Kingdom over Satan, his plans, his works and his demons.

### **Fellowship and the Church**

Most modern church services are more like the assemblies held in the

Temple with all its legalism ritual and formalism that has resulted in a two-class system - Clergy and laity (minister/priest and congregation) that is similar to the system to the Nicolaitans, which Jesus soundly condemned in His book of Revelation.

The rise of the professional clergy class resulted in the institutional church. The Institutional church was needed to support those professional clergy whose purpose was to promote their institution and maintain it so they could use it as a basis to work from. There were also those who joined the church ministry, because they were poor, because of the security it gave them in a time when most people were poor and hunger was common. And of course, there were those that joined the church because of self-esteem problems to find what they considered a worthwhile purpose in life.

Previously to this institutionalised system, people who ministered usually worked during the day and ministered in their free time either at work or outside their work hours. They supported themselves so did not need an institution to support them. They had usually no academic qualifications and there was no structure for them to be promoted in. There was no salary or payment for their services and all was done because of their love for Jesus and His Kingdom.

There were some wandering ministers but they were evangelists who were sent to proclaim Jesus to the world. These did not necessarily have a church supporting them. But all who felt God wanted them too gave to their support and these evangelists were welcomed into the homes of the early Christians who also helped support them when they were in their locality.

There was never the problem of size in these home groups. If they got too large, they split and met in two houses. This is what it will be like in the Millennium where there will be no denominations and few paid Christian workers whose main work is to encourage the faith and guide house/local assemblies.

Once the institutional church was formed, authority, wealth and prestige became important and large church buildings were built. These were too big for the communal meal. So this practice was

stopped and was no longer a part of the fellowship of this two tiered church system. What was left was a system for worship similar to the temple with clergy and the people (laity) separate. Without the appropriate qualifications you could not serve God. Women were also precluded from ministering in the churches.

Satan had managed to remove the system of early worship Jesus had instituted where the family was the basis of worship and family (fellowship) meals in the Body an important part of the fellowship and has replaced it with one similar to the formalism and ritual that was in the Jewish worship service. With this, fellowship in the meeting, as it was instituted by Jesus, disappeared.

House churches that support a pastor or minister are still in this system and are in this sense still removed from the early church meetings where the clergy and laity classification did not exist.

In the beginning spiritually mature people were used to guide the house churches and as The Holy Spirit guided them, they ministered. When The Holy Spirit was removed as guide to the church by formality and the need for structure in these big churches it meant rules, regulations and accreditation was brought into the church system to ensure standards of a denomination was maintained.

The worship in the church no longer represented Jesus but a man ordered system that ignored The Holy Spirit and did what seemed best using The Bible to suit whatever purposes they wanted to bring in. So, words in the Bible were redefined or interpreted to mean what they wanted them to mean. This is the basis of modern theology – what man understands or reasons theology to be and not what The Holy Spirit says it should be.

Because modern denominational church meetings are based on man's reasonings of what they should be, the focus is on the preacher/speaker and the order of the service and not on Jesus. This is why it is difficult or even impossible for a congregation to have fellowship in a church that follows denominational guidelines for worship and ignores the guidance of The Holy Spirit. There may be fellowship between a few but not the unity that would result in fellowship of the whole

congregation.

This lack of Fellowship results in division in the church, as well as cliques as each tries to maintain and defend their social standing, authority, belief or group in the local church.

### **The Holy Spirit and Fellowship**

Without The Holy Spirit there can be no true fellowship. It is only in the unity of the Holy Spirit that true fellowship occurs.

The reformation brought people back to the Truths of The Bible but not the workings of The Holy Spirit to church meetings in the way the early church use to have them. So the formality continued. The reformation also ignored the role of a personal Holy Spirit in worship so new groups arose that were truer to God but were not Spirit led as the early church was. They held to The Bible faithfully but did not know the Power of God as demonstrated by Jesus and by all who correctly preach, teach and demonstrate the Kingdom of God. This was because they majored on the Gospel of Salvation and not on The Gospel of the Kingdom or the demonstration of The Kingdom.

Holiness revivals were spirit led but stayed in the church structure and Satan was able to subvert them by playing on the ego and pride of ministers and managing to get error into the understanding of The Holy Spirit and His role in the church.

While there are clergy and laity type systems in the church or The Holy Spirit does not lead a church, you will never get back to the worship style of Jesus and the early church because the division of laity and clergy puts a divide there that was not in the early church and hinders fellowship and unity from being expressed in the way Jesus desires fellowship to be expressed. Only as people of equal status in Jesus (Gal 3:28) and guided by the Holy Spirit, are in a fellowship can the Holy Spirit lead any fellowship as He should and set it up as it was in the time of the Apostles.

I am not saying we do not have leaders but that these leaders are drawn from the fellowship itself and not from a privileged or educated class that have a certificate but not a mandate from Christ to lead where they

are. These leaders that are drawn from the fellowship are there because The Holy Spirit has appointed and anointed them to for that task and not because they studied in an educational institute to learn the best man-made ways of leading.

The Holy Spirit does not need denominations, churches, clergy or theologians to do the Work of God. He just needs people who are willing to be lead by The Holy Spirit and who will do what He says, who will walk in constant fellowship with God.

These Holy Spirit led people will serve Jesus and His Kingdom and not some denomination or church system as they are not shackled by being associated with any of these. These people will serve Jesus out of love for Him and His people and not because they will have prestige, power, more income or a bigger church. They have no promotional structure to work towards or to prove they are worthy to be promoted by Jesus in the organisation as they desire only Jesus and His Will for them and His people. In this attitude is true fellowship with Jesus and each other. Knowledge will not be the basis for promotion but spiritual maturity and experience will be.

### **All Christ led ministry is a form of fellowship.**

When ministry is correctly performed in God's type of Love, a fellowship situation occurs. Love is the mark of The Kingdom of God so its true expression can only be for the purposes of The King. All true ministry is done in God's quality of Love for the purposes of The King so is fellowship.

The Christian life should be a life of fellowship in some degree or other with Christians we meet as it is an interaction of people who follow Jesus for the purposes of Jesus out of Love for what He has done for them.

### **Epilogue to fellowship**

The Christian life should be a life of constant fellowship with God and at times with other Christians. Only as you walk in this constant fellowship walk with God will Mat 6:33 be a reality and will you relate to all as God desires you to relate to them.



God created you for Fellowship and the culmination of this Fellowship is when you spend eternity with him in heaven in His Kingdom.

We have this admonition in The Bible fellowship is considered so important by God:

*Heb 10:24 And let us consider one another to provoke unto love and to good works:*

*Heb*

*10:25 Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some is; but exhorting one another: and so much the more, as ye see the day approaching.*

Most of the New Testament quotes in this book are from the following book from which I obtained from the Author permission to use.

The Original Aramaic New Testament in Plain English (An American Translation of the Aramaic New Testament) by Glenn David Bauscher

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