

The Believer and His Church

Introduction

- A. The subject before us is a very important one. Every believer is a member of the Church (the Body of Christ), through the new birth, and should be united with and active in a Biblical assembly in his/her community.
- B. The Church is a divine institution. It is necessary, therefore, that we understand this relationship which God has established with us and learn how to cooperate with Him.

I. The Clarifying Description of the Church.

A. The Church is an Organism.

For we were all baptized by one Spirit into one body--whether Jews or Greeks, slave or free--and we were all given the one Spirit to drink. I Cor 12:13

Paul, Silas and Timothy, To the church of the Thessalonians in God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ: Grace and peace to you. I Thess 1:1

B. The Church is a Spiritual Organism.

You also, like living stones, are being built into a spiritual house to be a holy priesthood, offering spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ. I Peter 2:5

C. The Church is a Spiritual Organism under the Headship of Jesus Christ.

And God placed all things under his feet and appointed him to be head over everything for the church. Eph 1:22

D. The Church is an Anointed, Spiritual Organism under the Headship of Jesus Christ.

He anointed us, set his seal of ownership on us, and put his Spirit in our hearts as a deposit, guaranteeing what is to come. 2 Cor 1:21,22

E. The Church is an Anointed, Spiritual Organism, under the Headship of Jesus Christ, and Commissioned by God.

Then Jesus came to them and said, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age."

Matt 28:18-20

II. The Instructive Description of the Church Member.

A. Since the Church is an Organism -- the Believer Possesses Eternal Life.

I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish ... John 10:28

B. Since the Church is a Spiritual Organism -- the Believer is Primarily Spirit (Spiritual).

Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. Matt 5:3

C. Since the Church is a Spiritual Organism, under the Headship of Jesus Christ -- the Believer acknowledges that Jesus Christ is Lord.

You call me 'Teacher' and 'Lord,' and rightly so, for that is what I am. John 13:13,14

D. Since the Church is an Anointed, Spiritual Organism under the Headship of Jesus Christ, The Believer also Possesses a Divine Enablement.

But to each one of us grace has been given as Christ ... gave gifts to men." Eph 4:7,8

E. Since the Church is an Anointed, Spiritual Organism under the Headship of Jesus Christ, and Commissioned by God -- the Believer shares that Commission.

As you sent me into the world, I have sent them into the world. John 17:18

III. The Practical Privilege and Responsibility of Every Believer -- Regarding the Church.

A. In Regard to God Himself.

1. The privilege of loving devotion.

God is spirit, and his worshipers must worship in spirit and in truth. John 4:24

2. The privilege of faithful, loving obedience.

While they were worshiping the Lord and fasting, the Holy Spirit said ... Acts 13:2

B. In Regard to Other Church Members.

1. The privilege of participation in giving and receiving loving care.

Confess your sins to each other and pray for each other so...healed. James 5:15

2. The privilege of giving and receiving spiritual ministry.

From him the whole body, joined and held together by every supporting ligament, grows and builds itself up in love, as each part does its work. Eph 4:16

Victor Matthews

