

## The Christian and His Church

### Introduction

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

### I. The Clarifying Description of the Church.

#### A. The church is an organism.

Paul and Silvanus and Timotheus, unto the church of the Thessalonians which is in God the Father and in the Lord Jesus Christ . . . (I Thess. 1:1)

As thou hast given him power over all flesh, that he should give eternal life to as many as thou hast given him. And this is life eternal, that they might know thee the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom thou hast sent. (John 17:2,3)

In whom ye also are builded together for an habitation of God through the Spirit. (Ephesians 2:22)

#### B. The church is a spiritual organism.

Ye also, as lively stones, are built up a spiritual house, an holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices, acceptable to God by Jesus Christ. (I Peter 2:5)

#### C. The church is a spiritual organism under the headship of Jesus Christ.

And hath put all things -under his feet, and gave him to be the head over all things to the church. (Ephesians 1:22)

#### D. The church is an anointed, spiritual organism under the headship of Jesus Christ.

Now he which stablisheth us with you is Christ, and hath anointed us, is God. Who hath also sealed us, and given the earnest of the Spirit in our hearts. (II Corinthians 1:21,22)

#### E. The church is an anointed, spiritual organism under the headship of Jesus Christ - commissioned by God.

Jesus came and spake unto them, saying, All power is given unto me in heaven and earth. Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you, and, lo, I am with you alway, even unto the end of the world. Amen. (Matthew 28:18-20)

## II. The Instructive Description of the Church Member.

### A. Since the church is an organism - the believer possesses eternal life.

And I give unto them eternal life, and they shall never perish, neither shall any man pluck them out of my hand. (John 10:28)

### B. Since the church is a spiritual organism - the believer is basically a spiritual person.

Blessed are the poor in spirit, for their's is the kingdom of heaven, (Matthew 5:3)

### C. Since the church is a spiritual organism under the headship of Jesus Christ - the believer acknowledges that Jesus Christ is Lord.

Ye call me Master and Lord, and ye say well, for so I am. If I then, your Lord and Master, have washed your feet, ye also ought to wash one another's feet. (John 13:13,14)

### D. Since the church is an anointed, spiritual organism under the headship of Jesus Christ - the believer also possesses this divine enablement.

But unto every one of us is given grace according to the measure of the gift of Christ. (Ephesians 4:7)

### E. Since the church is an anointed, spiritual organism under the headship of Jesus Christ and commissioned by God - the believer shares that trust.

As thou hast sent me into the world, even so have I also sent them into the world. (John 17:18)

## III. The Practical Responsibility of Every Christian - Regarding the Church.

### A. In regard to God Himself.

#### 1. The worship of loving devotion.

God is a Spirit, and they that worship him must worship him in spirit and in truth. (John 4:24)

#### 2. The service of faithful obedience.

As they ministered to the Lord, and fasted, the Holy Spirit said, Separate me Barnabas and Saul for the work whereunto I have called them. (Acts 13:2)

### B. In regard to other church members.

#### 1. Participation in giving and receiving loving care.

And whether one member suffer, all the members suffer with it, or one member be honoured, all the members rejoice with it. (I Cor.12:26)

#### 2. Participation in giving and receiving spiritual ministry.

From whom the whole body fitly joined together and compacted by that which every joint supplied, according to the effectual working in the measure of every part, making increase of the body unto the edifying of itself in love. (Ephesians 4:16)