

GOD'S PLAN FOR UNITY: ONE BODY (Continued)

“Notice that this passage (Ephesians 1:22-23, JFB) introduces another factor for us to consider: this one body of which Christ is the head is his church. This also tells us that, contrary to current thinking, Christ is not the head of hundreds of bodies differing in everything from name to doctrine to work (mission). Such a contradictory hodgepodge is the exact opposite of the oneness the Father requires and for which the Son so fervently prayed.”

This statement from our previous article is a mind blower for many people. They have become so used to the denominational concept of Christianity—a body comprised of hundreds of different churches, all branches of the same Christ—that the observation of Christ (the head) having only one body (his church) is astounding, perhaps revolting.

The reaction to this observation, the teaching of the New Testament notwithstanding, usually stems from postmodern mentality that every body has his own “truth,” and any one’s truth is just as valid as any one else’s. Logically, then, why not have as many different religious groups as there are human conceptions of what Christianity should be so that every one can find a niche that suits his, or her, liking.

This is logical thinking for most people of today’s “Christendom,” but diametrically opposed to God’s will and the scheme of redemption for which Jesus Christ gave his life on the cross. The fact is nothing in the Scriptures even remotely suggests a body of Christ comprised of many lesser bodies that in turn denominate (name) their own local congregations and stipulate their organization, doctrine, and practices.

One may ask, “If the body of Christ is not an umbrella for a multiplicity of lesser self denominated religious bodies, then what is it? Just what did Jesus mean when he said, ‘I will build My church’?”

Perhaps the most concise, yet thorough, answer to this question is found at Hebrews 12:22-24. “But you are come to Mount Zion and to the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem, to an innumerable company of angels, to the general assembly and church of the firstborn who are registered in heaven, to God the Judge of all, to the spirits of just men made perfect, to Jesus the Mediator of the new covenant, and to the blood of sprinkling that speaks better things than that of Abel.”

Yes, this passage is a lot to think about and grasp. If you would like to study it with us call 541 344 7752 or 541 744 0309.

–Jerry F. Bassett