



THE BODY: BALANCED, ALIGNED & ALIVE

The New Testament uses many different metaphors to describe the Church:

A Family _____: With God as our Father, based on relationships and guided by the “One Anothers” listed throughout the New Testament.

A Flock _____: With Jesus as the Good Shepherd and church leaders as His representatives to care for His sheep.

A Building _____: Not a *physical* building, but a structure where Christ is the foundation, the teachings of the apostles are the pillars and each member is a stone that forms the building.

A Bride _____: With Christ as the Groom and our good works as adorning Her for His coming.

But maybe the most comprehensive metaphor used is that of the Church as a **Body** _____.

Romans 12:4-5 NLT

⁴ Just as our bodies have many parts and each part has a special function,
⁵ so it is with Christ’s body. We are many parts of one body,
and we all belong to each other.

1 Corinthians 12:12-18; 24-27 NLT

¹² The human body has many parts, but the many parts make up one whole body. So it is with the body of Christ. ¹³ Some of us are Jews, some are Gentiles,^[e] some are slaves, and some are free. But we have all been baptized into one body by one Spirit, and we all share the same Spirit.^[f]

¹⁴ Yes, the body has many different parts, not just one part. ¹⁵ If the foot says, “I am not a part of the body because I am not a hand,” that does not make it any less a part of the body. ¹⁶ And if the ear says, “I am not part of the body because I am not an eye,” would that make it any less a part of the body? ¹⁷ If the whole body were an eye, how would you hear? Or if your whole body were an ear, how would you smell anything?

¹⁸ But our bodies have many parts, and God has put each part just where he wants it... ²⁴ So God has put the body together such that extra honor and care are given to those parts that have less dignity. ²⁵ This makes for harmony among the members, so that all the members care for each other. ²⁶ If one part suffers, all the parts suffer with it, and if one part is honored, all the parts are glad.

²⁷ All of you together are Christ’s body, and each of you is a part of it.

BIBLICAL INSTRUCTIONS _____ CONCERNING THE BODY

Ephesians 4:11-16 NKJV

¹¹ And He Himself gave some *to be* apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, and some pastors and teachers, ¹² for the equipping of the saints for the work of ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ, ¹³ till we all come to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to a perfect man, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ; ¹⁴ that we should no longer be children, tossed to and fro and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the trickery of men, in the cunning craftiness of deceitful plotting, ¹⁵ but, speaking the truth in love, may grow up in all things into Him who is the head—Christ— ¹⁶ from whom the whole body, joined and knit together by what every joint supplies, according to the effective working by which every part does its share, causes growth of the body for the edifying of itself in love.

- **Christ** _____ is the head of the Church. (15)
- The “leaders” are to **equip** _____ the **saints** _____ (11-12)
 - “Perfecting” – taking them to **maturity** _____
 - Equipping them for the **ministry** _____
 - **2 Timothy 3:16-17**
- The **saints** _____ are to do the **ministry** _____ (12)
 - A **distinction** _____ between service and ministry:
 - Service is in the physical realm
 - Ministry involves using the Word of God and applying it to the lives of people
 - A **IBB** we want **every** _____ member to be a minister.
- This partnership between *leaders* and *saints* will result in:
 - Genuine **health** _____ and **growth** _____ of the Body. (12)
 - Unity of the **faith** _____ (13)
 - A knowledge of **Christ** _____ and His ways (13)
 - True **Christianity** _____ (*being like Christ*) (13)
 - Doctrinal **stability** _____ (14)
 - Proper **balance** _____ and **alignment** _____ of the Body (15-16)

BALANCED - ALIGNED - ALIVE

“The Church is earth’s single best place
– God’s specially *designed* place –
to start over, to grow and to change for the glory of God.”
Joshua Harris, “Stop Dating the Church”



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