

# Is The Church Important?

Jews AND Gentiles  
Reconciled.

*Eph. 2:16; 3:6.*

Each member is a  
joint.

*Eph. 4:15-16.*

All spiritual  
blessings in  
Christ.

*Eph. 1:3.*

CHRIST THE HEAD

*Eph. 1:23; 4:15; 5:23.*

CHURCH THE BODY

*Rom. 12:4-5; 1 Cor. 12:20-27;*

*Eph. 1:22-23.*

BODY THE CHURCH

*Col. 1:18, 24; 3:15.*

ONE BODY

*Eph. 4:4-5; 2:16; Col. 3:15.*

ALIVE IN CHRIST

*Eph. 2:1; 5:30.*

CHRIST DIED FOR IT.

*Eph. 5:25, 23.*

JESUS PROVIDES  
WHAT BUILDS UP  
THE BODY.

*Eph. 4:11-12.*

THE SAVED.

*Eph. 5:23.*

BAPTIZED  
INTO THE BODY.

*1 Cor. 12:13; Gal. 3:27.*

## **IS THE CHURCH IMPORTANT?**

INTRO: Many times we hear people say: "After all, the church does not save you! The church is not important; in fact, it does not make any difference what church you belong to. You don't even have to be a member of any church to go to heaven."

Part of their statement is true. The church does not save you. This is true. The church is made up of the saved. However, to say that the church is not important shows a lack of Bible knowledge. Jesus did not know that the church was not important, otherwise why did he die to purchase it. Acts 20:28; Eph. 5:25. Paul, in his writing to the church at Ephesus, wrote time and time again about the church and its importance.

### **I. WHAT IS THE BODY?**

- A. The Church Is the Body. Rom. 12:4-5; 1 Cor. 12:20-27; Eph. 1:22-23.
- B. The Body Is the Church. Col. 1:18; Col. 1:24; Col. 3:15.
- C. There Is Only One Body. Eph. 4:4-5, 6. One God. Eph. 2:16. Note above Col. 3:15.

### **II. THE BODY IS IMPORTANT.**

We notice how many times references to the body are made in the Ephesian letter.

- A. Christ Is the Head of the Body. Eph. 1:22-23; Eph. 4:15; Eph. 5:23.
- B. The Jews and Gentiles Are Reconciled in the One Body. Eph. 2:16; Eph. 3:6.
- C. Jesus Provides That Which Will Build Up the Body. Eph. 4:11-12. At first these were set in the church by miracle, but now we have the inspired Word to guide us and the teachings of the Apostles and prophets. Men are now qualified as evangelists, pastors, and teachers by studying of the Word and meeting the qualifications laid down in the Word for these offices. It is by this means that God's people are not carried away in false doctrine. Eph. 4:14.
- D. Every Member, As a Joint, Supplies His Part to Make the Body Strong. Eph. 4:15-16.
- E. The Body Is Made Up of the Saved. Eph. 5:23. The church does not save you, but the blood of Christ saves you and He adds you to the church. The saved are in the church.
- F. Those Alive in Christ Are Members of His Body. Eph. 2:1. Note that we were made alive in verse 5. Eph. 2:5. We are alive because we are members of His Body, the church. Eph. 5:30.
- G. Christ Died for the Church, His Body. Christ died for those who make up the church, the body. Certainly the church is important; otherwise Christ would not have died for it. Eph. 5:25; Eph. 5:23.
- H. All Spiritual Blessings Are in Christ. Eph. 1:3. There are no spiritual blessings out of Christ; all spiritual blessings are in Christ. The saved are in Christ. If we are in Christ, we are in the body, the church.

- I. We Must Be Baptized into the Body, the Church. 1 Cor. 12:13. The only way to get into Christ is to be baptized into Him. Gal. 3:27.
- CONCL: Certainly we can see from the teaching of the Bible that the church is important. Christ died for it. Paul wrote so much about it that it had to be important. You must be in Christ to be saved. The very act that puts one into Christ puts one into the Church. Hear, Believe, Repent, Confess and Be Baptized. This puts you into Christ, into the Body, into the Church.