

THE TRUE BODY OF CHRIST

INTRODUCTION

- I. Every physical body has its own head, which is OVER that body, and DIRECTS the actions OF that body.
 - A. If the head is injured, or ill, it cannot give good directions TO the body, OR if the body is ill or injured, it cannot properly obey the head.
 1. The body only has one head, so it cannot change heads if one head is ill.
 2. The head only has one body, so it cannot do away with it and replace it with a new one.
 - B. Each body has many members (*eye, ear, nose, hand, foot*), and EACH member is necessary. 1 Cor. 12:14-26
 1. If the body is healthy, there will be harmony between it and the head, and between all other individuals of head and body.
 - a. One head does not send signals to another person's body.
 - b. There would be great confusion in society if each head had control of another body other than its own.
 2. God made each head and body **person** to be independent.
- II. Now, let's apply the analogy of the head and body to **RELIGION**.

DISCUSSION

I. In religion, GOD HAS DETERMINED ONENESS.

- A. God decreed that there be only ONE head—JESUS CHRIST.
 1. He rules from heaven. Psa. 110:1; Acts 2:25, 34-36; Eph. 1:19-22
 2. Christ shares this rule with **no one**. Matt. 28:18
- B. God likewise decreed ONE body, with many members. 1 Cor. 12:13, 27
 1. The body is the **church**, that Jesus the head, has built. Matt. 16:18; Eph. 1:22-23; 4:4
 2. The body must be subject ONLY to Christ. Eph. 5:23-24; 1 Cor. 11:3
 - a. Christ is the *mind* to give directions to the body—the church.
 - b. His directions are in the written WORD of the New Testament, which He gave through the apostles. Matt. 28:18-20; Luke 6:46; John 12:48; 2 John 9
 3. Christ's WORD directs us in all things.
 - a. It tells us how to be **saved** and be a part of that body. Mark 16:16; 1 Cor. 12:13; Acts 2:38, 47
 - b. His word tells us how to **worship** God. John 4:24; Acts 2:42, 47; Col. 3:16-17; cf Matt. 15:9

II. In today's world, God's plan of Oneness DOES NOT PREVAIL.

- A. There are MANY "heads"--claiming religious authority.
 1. The Pope of Rome rules over the Roman Catholic Church.
 2. The Patriarch of Constantinople rules over the Greek Orthodox Church.
 3. The Archbishop of Canterbury rules over the Church of England, while the Queen is its honorary head.
 4. The president of the Mormon Church rules over all Salt Lake City Mormons.
 5. Likewise, every denomination has its own earthly head.

- B. For every head, there is a corresponding body, and there are thousands of such arrangements in the religious world today.
1. They are not in agreement because of confusing doctrines.
 2. Such is NOT from God, but from Satan, who deceives people into thinking “one body or church is as good as another”, OR that “all denominations make up the one body of Christ.”
 - a. The true head always speaks the same thing. Heb. 13:8
 - b. The true body will also follow the same thing. John 17:20-21; 1 Cor. 1:10

CONCLUSION

- I. God is not behind the religious confusion in the world, but desires that all be IN that one body, and all follow the same word of God. 1 Cor. 15:33; Matt. 7:13-14
- II. If you are not a member of Christ’s church, you can confess your faith in Christ as God’s Son, repent of your sins, and be added to the church when you are baptized for the remission of sins.

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