

THE BODY OF CHRIST  
ESSENTIAL CHURCH SERIES

EPH.4:7-16

INTRODUCTION: 1. Is the church essential? GK *ECKLASEA* appears 115 times in the N.T. and is translated, church or assembly. 90% of the time it refers to a local gathering. 2. We are commanded to gather, Heb. 10:24,25. 3. The church is universal, but is expressed and functions locally. 4. "SOMEONE WITH SKIN ON". The mystery of Incarnation – 1 Tim.3:16; John 1:14; Col.2:9; Col.1:24-29.

- I) THE CHURCH AS THE BODY OF CHRIST 4:12-16
  - A) THE BODY, 4:4,12,16; 1:22,23; 2:16; 3:6,17-21. See also, Col.2:17-19; Rom.12:4,5; 1 Cor.12:11-27; Col.1:18,24; 3:15; Heb.10:5; Heb.13:3
  - B) THE HEAD, 4:15; 1:22; 5:23; Col.2:9,10. Delegated authority, Heb.13:7,8,17; 1 Cor.16:16; 1 Pet.5:1-5.
  - C) THE FULLNESS, Col.1:19; 2:9; Eph.1:23; 4:13.
  - D) THE PURPOSE OF A BODY:
    - 1. Express the Soul, John 14:8,9; 2 Cor.4:11; Heb.1:3.
    - 2. Carry out the Will of the Head, Rom.10:14,15; Acts 9:4,5; Matt.25:34-46; Spiritual warfare, Heb.1:13; Heb. 2:6-10; Heb. 10:13; Rom.16:20.
    - 3. Communicate Love, 1 John 4:7-11; Rom.5:5-8; 1 John 3:16-18.
- II) MINISTRY TO THE SAINTS, 4:11-16.
  - A) EQUIP, EVERY MEMBER IS GIVEN GRACE TO MINISTER, 4:7,8; Rom.12:3-13; 1 Pet.4:10. *KATARTIEMOS*, (GK), 'to render fit for use'. Used in Koine Greek for: a. mending nets; b. setting broken bones, Gal.6:1; c. Arming and supplying an army. See 1 Thes. 3:10; Heb.13:21; 1 Pet.5:10; 2 Tim.3:16,17; Eph.6:10-20.
  - B) EDIFY, *OIKODOMA*, 'to house build, to build up'. 2:19-22; 4:29; 5:25,27,29; 1 Thes.5:11; 1 Tim.1:4; Rom.14:19; 1 Cor.10:23,33; 14:1-5,12,17,26,40.
  - C) PERFECT/MATURE, *TELEIOI*, (GK), 'to reach your designed end'. Gen. 17:1; Matt.5:48; Col.1:27-29; Col.3:14; James 1:4; Gal. 4:19; Rom.8:29. MATURITY TESTS:
    - a) DISCERN TRUTH, 4:14; Heb. 5:12-14; 13:9; 2 Cor.11:1-3.
    - b) SPEAK TRUTH IN LOVE, 4:15, 25; James 3:2; James 1:26; 1 Pet.3:15; 1 Pet.1:22.
    - c) MAINTAIN GIVING RELATIONSHIPS, 1 Cor. 1:10; Acts 2:42-47; Gal. 5:13,14.
- III) THE NEED FOR CONNECTION, 4:16. "JOINED", (GK), *SUNARMOLOGEO*, 'joined or fit together'. Eph. 2:21; 1 Cor.1:10. "KNIT TOGETHER", *SUMBIBAZO*, (GK), Col.2:2,19. The human joint is a place of connection of bones, muscles, ligaments, and tendons, to facilitate movement. In this passage it is a picture of relationships, people connected to other people. See also 1 Cor. 12:12-27.