

## "THE HEAD AND THE BODY"

### I. SOME OF THE THINGS ILLUSTRATED IN THIS METAPHOR OF THE CHURCH

- A. This metaphor illustrates the Lord's oversight and direction of the Church.
  - 1. Just like the head of our physical bodies controls and directs the overall functions of our bodies so Christ is the One who directs the ministry of the Church (Col. 1:13; Eph. 1:22,23).
  - 2. With this thought in mind we see that the Church is subject to His sovereign will and therefore should function according to His desires and directions (Eph. 5:23).
- B. This metaphor illustrates secondly the functioning of the Church as a body of believers.
  - 1. Just like the different parts of our bodies work together to carry out our desires and do as we direct, so the Church is to function according to the Lord's will.
  - 2. Just like all of the parts of our Bodies are moved by the one head so should every member in the Church be directed by the Lord Jesus Himself.

### II. SOME OF THE THINGS INVOLVED IN THIS RELATIONSHIP AS BELIEVERS

- A. This relationship involves first of all unity among the members within the Church.
  - 1. Just like a body is composed of many members but they all make up one body that functions together, so the individual members in the Church make up one body of believers which should function together (I Cor. 12:12,13).
  - 2. In this respect we see there should be no schism within the body (I Cor, 12:25). In other words just like individual members of a body do not work against one another neither should members of a Church work in opposition to one another.
- B. This relationship involves diversity among the

members within the Church.

1. Just like the different members of a physical body have different purposes and different functions, so do individual members within the Church Body (Eph. 4:16; I Cor. 12:14-23).
  2. Notice for this reason there are different members in the Church body who have different gifts and this means we shouldn't seek to do what others do or to function in the very same manner as they do (I Cor. 12:4; I Peter. 4:10,11).
- C. This relationship involves dependence upon one another and a mutual regard for one another within the body of believers.
1. Just like one part of a physical body is dependent upon other parts to function so must the members within a Church be (Rom. 12:5; Eph. 4:16).
  2. Notice also when one part of our bodies hurts so does this affect the whole body. In this respect then the members of a Church ought to be affected by what happens to one another (I Cor. 12:26).
- D. This relationship with one another is directly related to one's relationship with the Lord Jesus.
1. Just like each part of a body must respond individually to its head to have harmonious functions so must each member within a Church be properly responsive to the Lord to insure harmony and interaction with other members (Eph. 4:15,16; Col. 2:19).
  2. Notice this means when a member of a Church is not in fellowship with the Lord he will not be with others and when he is not in fellowship with others, he is not with the Lord.

### III. SOME OF THE THINGS IMPLIED FOR US TO DO BASED UPON THIS RELATIONSHIP

- A. We should look to the Lord for what He would have us to do as an individual and we should seek do His will in our lives.

- B. We should work together as members of a Church so that we may function frictionless as a body of believers.
- C. We should recognize individual differences and exercise our different gifts for the edification of the other members of the Church.
- D. We must remember that unity within a Church is predicated upon an overall subjection to the Lordship of Christ who is the Head.