

INTRODUCTION: REVIEW

Paul's analogy for the Church was the human body (1 Corinthians 12:12-27)

(1 Corinthians 12:27)

“Now you are the body of Christ, and members individually

The unity of His Body is by the Holy Spirit and not by carnal or human means.

(1 Corinthians 12:13)

“For by one Spirit we were all baptized into one body— whether Jews or Greeks, whether slaves or free—and have all been made to drink into one Spirit.”

- It is not possible to bring unity in the body by human means because:

- Every member is a planting or is put into the body by God.

(1 Corinthians 12:18)

“But now God has set the members, each one of them, in the body just as He pleased.”

(Psalm 92:13-14)

13 Those who are planted in the house of the LORD shall flourish in the courts of our God. 14 They shall still bear fruit in old age; they shall be fresh and flourishing,

(Isaiah 61:3)

“To console those who mourn in Zion, To give them beauty for ashes, The oil of joy for mourning, The garment of praise for the spirit of heaviness; That they may be called trees of righteousness, The planting of the LORD, that He may be glorified.”

- Each member is unique and has its specific function and tends to believe it is more important than the others.

Jesus said that the Church is made up of Kings and Priests (Revelation 1:4-6)

This refers to the corporate body as a Church and also teaches about the individual being king and priest

PRIESTS ARE GIFTS TO THE CHURCH

(Ephesians 4:11-15)

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”

- They are anointed to receive God's visions and revelations to be revealed to the Church.

(Amos 3:7)

“Surely the Lord GOD does nothing, unless He reveals His secret to His servants the prophets.

(Acts 6:4)

“but we will give ourselves continually to prayer and to the ministry of the word.”

(Daniel 2:47)

“... Truly your God is the God of gods, the Lord of kings, and a revealer of secrets, since you could reveal this secret.” (Daniel 2:47)

(Romans 10:14)

Paul said, “How then shall they call on Him in whom they have not believed? And how shall they believe in Him of whom they have not heard? And how shall they hear without a preacher?”

KINGS ARE MEMBERS OF THE BODY OF CHRIST – Kings are anointed

- Kings rule

They rule their body and their lives

(Romans 6:12-14)

12 Therefore do not let sin reign in your mortal body, that you should obey it in its lusts. 13 And do not present your members as instruments of unrighteousness to sin, but present yourselves to God as being alive from the dead, and your members as instruments of righteousness to God. 14 For sin shall not have dominion over you, for you are not under law but under grace.

- Kings go to war

We are soldiers

(2 Timothy 2:4)

“No one engaged in warfare entangles himself with the affairs of this life, that he may please him who enlisted him as a soldier.”

We are called to put on the whole armor of God (Ephesians 6:11-17)

(Ephesians 6:12)

“For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this age, against spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places”

Satan is our enemy

(John 10:10)

“The thief does not come except to steal, and to kill, and to destroy. I have come that they may have life, and that they may have it more abundantly.”

- Kings have power to make wealth

(Deuteronomy 8:18)

“And you shall remember the LORD your God, for it is He who gives you power to get wealth, that He may establish His covenant which He swore to your fathers, as it is this day.”

(Ecclesiastes 5:19)

“As for every man to whom God has given riches and wealth, and given him power to eat of it, to receive his heritage and rejoice in his labor—this is the gift of God.”

The purpose of wealth - to fulfill God’s purpose, promises and vision for His Church

WHAT SHOULD THE CHURCH BE IN THE LAST DAYS?

(Joel 2:23-29)

23 Be glad then, you children of Zion, and rejoice in the LORD your God; For He has given you the former rain faithfully, and He will cause the rain to come down for you— The former rain, and the latter rain in the first month. 24 The threshing floors shall be full of wheat, and the vats shall overflow with new wine and oil. 25 “So I will restore to you the years that the swarming locust has eaten, the crawling locust, the consuming locust, and the chewing locust, My great army which I sent among you. 26 You shall eat in plenty and be satisfied, and praise the name of the LORD your God, who has dealt wondrously with you; and My people shall never be put to shame. 27 Then you shall know that I am in the midst of Israel: I am the LORD your God and there is no other. My people shall never be put to shame. 28 “And it shall come to pass afterward that I will pour out My Spirit on all flesh; Your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, Your old men shall dream dreams, Your young men shall see visions. 29 And also on My menservants and on My maidservants I will pour out My Spirit in those days.

- Salvation belongs to the Lord (Joel 2:23)
 - “Rain” speaks of blessings
 - “Former Rain” - A harvest of souls
 - Latter rain” – The Church will be empowered to grow
- God is our source of provision (Joel 2:24-27)
The Holy Spirit will enable the Church to do the will of God without hindrance
- Visions and dreams need God’s blessings and anointing (Joel 2:28-29)

(Acts 2:16-21)

16 But this is what was spoken by the prophet Joel: 17 ‘And it shall come to pass in the last days, says God, That I will pour out of My Spirit on all flesh; Your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, Your young men shall see visions, Your old men shall dream dreams. 18 And on My menservants and on My maidservants I will pour out My Spirit in those days; And they shall prophesy. 19 I will show wonders in heaven above And signs in the earth beneath: Blood and fire and vapor of smoke. 20 The sun shall be turned into darkness, And the moon into blood, Before the coming of the great and awesome day of the LORD. 21 And it shall come to pass That whoever calls on the name of the LORD Shall be saved.’

(Ecclesiastes 7:8)

“The end of a thing is better than its beginning; the patient in spirit is better than the proud in spirit.”

(John 2:1-10) Jesus turned water into wine

“And he said to him, “Every man at the beginning sets out the good wine, and when the guests have well drunk, then the inferior. You have kept the good wine until now!”

CONCLUSION:

When Jesus comes, He is looking for faith

(Luke 18:8)

“I tell you that He will avenge them speedily. Nevertheless, when the Son of Man comes, will He really find faith on the earth?”

- A Church of vision needs faith.
- To be a King and Priest you need faith.

How can we be a church as described in Ephesians 5:25-27?

When we are made Kings and Priests by Jesus who loved and washed us

(Ephesians 5:25-27)

25 Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ also loved the church and gave Himself for her, 26 that He might sanctify and cleanse her with the washing of water by the word, 27 that He might present her to Himself a glorious church, not having spot or wrinkle or any such thing, but that she should be holy and without blemish