

Seven Key Doctrines of the Christian Church **(Doctrine of One Body)**

A mini-series the Universality of the Christian Church

Doctrine of One Body
Doctrine of One Spirit (Part #1) – (Part #2) – (Part #3) – (Part #4) – (Part #5)
Doctrine of One Hope of Calling (Part #1) – (Part #2)
Doctrine of One Lord
Doctrine of One Faith
Doctrine of One Baptism (Part #1) – (Part #2) – (Part #3)
Doctrine of One God and Father

We are currently studying Paul's list of seven doctrines that separate the Christian church from the religions of the world. In this study we will discuss the third of seven doctrines listed in Eph.4:4-6,

(Eph.4:4-6) “There is **one body** and one Spirit - just as you were called to the one hope that belongs to your call - one Lord, one faith, one baptism, ⁶one God and Father of all, who is over all and through all and in all”.

This lesson is on our first doctrine listed in Eph.4:4-6, **One Body**.

As a missionary's missionary, Paul comes from evangelizing cultures of different religions. Paul evangelized the Roman Empire surrounding the Mediterranean Sea.

What Paul learned was that Christianity's message of Grace trumped the religions message of works.

Religions message was one of “works salvation”, that one had to become worthy of their relationship with God.

Paul's Christian message was a message of God's Grace based the “Work of Christ” on the cross, burial and resurrection.

(Rom.3:24) “Being justified as a gift by His grace through the redemption which is in Christ Jesus.”

In the Book of Ephesians, Paul shares with us seven key theological doctrines that separates Christianity from the religions of the world. Paul listed these seven theological doctrines in our lesson text.

The first one listed that universalizes the Christian church in the world is the **Doctrine of One Body**.

This lesson will study <u>four aspects</u> of the Doctrine of One Body

The Christian church is set apart from religions of the world.
These seven doctrines unify the Christian Church in the world

- 1. Jesus Christ in session, seated at the right hand of God, is the head and Savior of the One Body, the church of Christ - “There is one body (Eph.4:4).”**

(Eph.5:23) “...as Christ also is the **head of the church**, He Himself being the **Savior of the body**.”

Savior of the Body (1 Cor.15:3-4; Rom.1:16; Eph.2:8-9)

(Eph.5:25) "...Christ loved the church and **gave Himself up for her.**"

(Acts 20:28) "...Shepherd the church of God which **He purchased with His blood.**"

(Rev.5:9) "...You were slain and purchased for God with Your blood **men from every tribe and tongue and people and nation.**"

(Acts 5:31) "He is the one whom God exalted to His right hand as a **Prince and a Savior**, to grant repentance to Israel, and forgiveness of sins."

Head of the Body (Eph.1:19-23)

(Eph.1:20) "...He raised Him from the dead and seated Him at His right hand in the heavenly places."

(Eph.1:22-23) "And He put all things in subjection under His feet and **gave Him as Head** over all things to the **church. Which is His body**, the fullness of Him who fills all in all."

2. At the moment of grace salvation, every believer becomes a member of the ONE Universal Body of Christ (Rev.5:9) "from every tribe and tongue and people and nation".

(1 Cor.12:12) "For even as the **body is one** and yet has many members, and **all the members of the body, though they are many, are **one body**, so also is **Christ.**"**

Every church age believer has the same baptism into the One Body as member.

(1 Cor. 12:13) "For **by one Spirit** we were all baptized into one body, whether Jews or Greeks, whether slaves or free, and we were all made to drink of the same Spirit."

3. As a member of the ONE universal body of Christ, every member receives at grace salvation a spiritual gifted ministry for the church (1 Cor.12:12-27; Rom.12:3-8; Eph.4:11-16; 1 Pet.4:10-11).

(Rom.12:5-6) "So we, **who are many, are one body in Christ, and individually members one of another. Since we have gifts that differ according to the grace given to us.**"

(1 Cor.12:18) "But now **God has placed the members, each one of them, in the body**, just as He desired."

(1 Cor.12:20) "But now there are many members, but one body."

(1 Cor.12:27) "Now you are Christ's body, and individually members of it."

(Eph.4:16) "...the proper working of each individual part, causes the growth of the body for the building up itself in love."

4. During the Church Age, members of the ONE universal body of Christ is present in heaven as well as on earth (1 Thess.4:13-18; 2 Cor.5:6-10; Phil.1:21-23).

(Rom.14:8-9) "For if we live, we live for the Lord, or if we die, we die for the Lord; **therefore, whether we live or die, we are the Lord's.** For to this end Christ died and lived again, that He might be Lord both of the dead and the living."

(Phil.1:21) "For to me, **to live is Christ and to die is gain.**"

(1 Thess.4:17-18) "Then **we who are alive and remain will be caught up together with them** in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air, and so we shall always be with the Lord. Therefore **comfort one another with these words.**"