

GOD'S MAGNIFICENT IDEA
Part XIII
Ephesians 1:22-24

Introduction: Ephesians 1:22 is clear in the Greek: "Hupetaxen panta hupo tous podas edoken kepholen huper panta te ekklesia." Then He said about the church, "soma autou to pleroma ta panto." The body of Christ is exoterically the most significant group of people on the face of the planet. The church is a living organism with Christ as the Head, and it is the beneficiary of Christ's power. The Greek word "pleroma" informs us that we not only have His power, but we are also filled by Him. The body of Christ is sanctioned by God to be His fiduciary agents communicating the Gospel to our generation. While the Holy Spirit is at work on earth carrying out the Father's orders, He logistically works through the individual members of the body of Christ to do His work. The anointing of the Holy Spirit is not circuitous but is direct as He empowers and gives unction to each member to complete a specific task. Each member is equally needed to complete the calling God has for His church. The task is enormous, and it demands our immediate attention. It is like the Navy's "all hands on deck."

I. God's magnificent idea

A. The human body. The human body serves as an excellent analogy of the church.

1. The skeletal. There are approximately 201 bones of various sizes in the human body.
2. The muscular. There are about 600 muscles that cover the skeletal structure. Their sole purpose is contraction. They work in pairs, one pulling forward and one pulling backward. Together they give immense capability of movement.
3. Before the muscles or bones can move, the brain flashes signals through the spinal cord (350 feet per second) to the motor nerves. From there, with a chemical boost, it jump triggers a muscle and thus movement.
4. There are fifty trillion cells that make up the human frame. Each cell must be fed and then must be able to eliminate its waste. Each cell has an an-ion and a cat-ion going in opposite directions creating energy.
5. To fuel the complicated mass of cells, there are 60,000 miles of tubing that cycle blood through the body in one minute.
6. The blood must circulate through the lungs to be oxygenated. The lungs contain 375 million pouches lined with minute capillaries. Each time we breathe, the blood gets cleansed, and each time we breathe out, carbon dioxide is expelled. The best cell cleansing comes while we are asleep.

B. The body of Christ. The Father God has made Christ the Head of the body. *Philippians 2:9-10*. All basic instruction must come from Him.

1. The fivefold ministry. *Ephesians 4:11*. God has assigned the fivefold ministry to lead the workers who are made up of believers, committed to serving God's purpose.
2. The fivefold ministry is commissioned to prepare the saints for the work of the ministry. *Ephesians 4:12-14*. Signs are to follow all believers. *Mark 16:17; John 14:12*.
3. The body ministry is intricately amalgamated together and totally dependent on each other, and together they are totally dependent on Christ. *Ephesians 4:16; 1st Corinthians 10:17*. Paul further reasons on this issue in *1st Corinthians 12:12-25*. As we each function in our assignment, we are ultimately accountable to the Head, Christ, and His headship is inviolable.
4. Together we can do great things. *Leviticus 26:7-8*. Here we find an amazing principle called synergy. When more than one person is synergistically yoked together with others in carrying out an assignment, their achievements are greatly compounded. The synergism of the human body operates much like the body of Christ.
5. Notice how things culminate. *1st Corinthians 15:24-28*.

Conclusion: The optimum achievement for the body of Christ occurs when we are harmoniously working together. An automobile operates best when all the cylinders are working. We can no longer afford to operate as lone rangers because there is too much at stake. We cannot afford to lose any time because Jesus is coming soon, and what we do, we must do quickly.