

CHRIST THE HEAD AND BELIEVERS HIS BODY
pt 1

I. The Shepherd and The Sheep Relationship

II. The Vine and The Branches Relationship

III. Christ the High Priest and Believers Today a Kingdom of Priests Relationship

IV. Christ the Head and Believers His Body

* In contrast to Israel which was an organized _____, today, we are a part of the "Church" -- a living _____, the very _____ of Christ.

* As long as we are connected to our Living Head (_____), His life _____ !

1 Corinthians 12:12-13

*Paul likens this baptism (_____) or _____ into Christ like being part of a _____ body-- many members or parts in that body, yet all are part of one body! So also is Christ and His _____ Body--the _____ !

* This metaphor speaks loudly of the _____ & _____ we have with Christ!

A. The Church as a _____ Body! (Eph. 4:11-16)

1. By God's grace, the ascended Christ gave _____ to His church!(4:7)

* Who are these gifted men? (4:11)

1) **Apostles**—men who had _____, been _____, & were now _____ by the resurrected Christ.

2) **N.T. Prophets**—like the apostles, they were _____ to the church (Eph 2:20)

3) **Evangelists** – Church _____ who preach the _____ going from place to place planting churches as they go.

4) **Pastor/teachers**—those given by the ascended Christ to _____, _____, and _____ for Christ's sheep.

* Please note that these particular gifted men were **all** _____ of the _____.

* Why did the ascended Christ give these gifted men to His Church?

1. Church growth or development requires that these gifted communicators of God's truth be used to _____ the saints via _____. (4:12a)

* Why Is Sound Doctrine So Important to the Church?

1. Sound doctrine is essential for proper spiritual _____ and _____. (2 Timothy 3:13-17)
2. Sound doctrine is to be the _____ for the faithful pastor-teacher. (2 Tim 4:1-4)
3. Sound doctrine is the means to spiritual _____ in your Christian life. (Ephesians 4:11-16)
4. Sound doctrine is necessary for the maintaining of _____ among believers. (Ephesians 4:13; 1 Cor. 1:10-12)
5. Sound doctrine has as its standard the _____. (1 Tim 1:8-11)
6. Sound doctrine forms the basis of _____. (John 4:23-24)

“*equipping/perfecting*” (katartismos) {kat-ar-tis-mos’}

* What is it the saints desperately need?

* Why is this needed?

* What is the primary role of the pastor/teacher?

* Does God want to use people in developing His Church?

3. Church *development* necessitates that the equipped saints_____. (4:12b)

4. Church *development* manifests itself by moving toward *spiritual objectives* such as....

- a. corporate _____ (4:13a) ... “*till we all come to the unity of the faith*”
- b. personal _____ of Jesus Christ (4:13b)... “*and of the knowledge of the Son of God.*”
- c. full spiritual _____ (4:13c)... “*to a perfect (mature) man*”
- d. spiritual _____ and _____ (4:14)... “*not being carried about by every wind of doctrine*”

5. Church growth & development has as its primary means believers _____ . (4:15a)

6. Church growth has as its ultimate authority and resource for *development*, the _____, the Head of the Church (4:16) ... “*from whom...*” -- He is the _____ of all life, power, and development in the Church!