LIVING UNDER THE UNIQUE HEADSHIP OF CHRIST AND IN THE UNIQUE DIVINE FELLOWSHIP

(Lord's Day—First Morning Session)

Message Seven

Called into the Fellowship of God's Son and Experiencing the Cross for the Deepening of the Divine Fellowship

Scripture Reading: 1 Cor. 1:2, 9, 30; 10:16-17; Rom. 6:6; Gal. 2:20; Matt. 16:24

1 Cor 1:2 To the [1a]church of God which is [2]in [b]Corinth, [3]to those who have been [4c]sanctified [5]in Christ Jesus, the [6d]called saints, [7]with all those who [8e]call upon the name of our Lord Jesus Christ in every place, *who is* [9f]theirs and ours:

1 Cor 1:9 [1]God is [a]faithful, through whom you were [b]called [2]into the [c]fellowship of His Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

1 Cor 1:30 But [1a]of Him you are [b]in Christ Jesus, who became [c]wisdom to us from God: both [2d]righteousness and [e]sanctification and [f]redemption,

1 Cor 10:16 The [a]cup of blessing which we [b]bless, is it not the [1]fellowship of the [c]blood of Christ? The [d]bread which we break, is it not the fellowship of the [e]body of Christ?

1 Cor 10:17 Seeing that there is [1a]one bread, we who are many are one Body; for we all [2]partake of the one bread.

Rom 6:6 [1]Knowing this, that our [2]old man has been [3a]crucified with *Him* in order that the [4b]body of sin might be [5]annulled, that we should no longer serve sin as slaves;

Gal 2:20 I am [1a]crucified with Christ; and *it is* [2]no longer I *who* live, but *it is* [3b]Christ *who* lives in me; and the [4]*life* which I now live in the flesh I [c]live in [5]faith, the [d]*faith* [6]of the [7]Son of God, who [8e]loved me and [f]gave Himself up for me.

Matt 16:24 Then Jesus said to His disciples, If anyone wants to come after Me, let him [1]deny [2]himself and take up his [3a]cross and [4]follow Me.

I. God has called us into the fellowship of His Son, Jesus Christ our Lord—1 Cor. 1:9:

1 Cor 1:9 [1]God is [a]faithful, through whom you were [b]called [2]into the [c]fellowship of His Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

A. The word *fellowship* implies communion, sharing something in common; such communion is a co-enjoyment of Christ and a co-participation in Christ—v. 2.

1 Cor 1:2 To the [1a]church of God which is [2]in [b]Corinth, [3]to those who have been [4c]sanctified [5]in Christ Jesus, the [6d]called saints, [7]with all those who [8e]call upon the name of our Lord Jesus Christ in every place, *who is* [9f]theirs and ours:

B. This fellowship, this communion and co-participation in and the co-enjoyment of Christ, is the reality of the church life—v. 2; 10:3-4, 17, 21.

1 Cor 1:2 To the [1a]church of God which is [2]in [b]Corinth, [3]to those who have been [4c]sanctified [5]in Christ Jesus, the [6d]called saints, [7]with all those who [8e]call upon the name of our Lord Jesus Christ in every place, *who is* [9f]theirs and ours:

1 Cor 10:3 And all ate the same [1]spiritual [a]food,

1 Cor 10:4 And all drank the same [1]spiritual [a]drink; for they drank of a [2]spiritual rock which followed *them*, and the rock was Christ.

1 Cor 10:17 Seeing that there is [1a]one bread, we who are many are one Body; for we all [2]partake of the one bread.

1 Cor 10:21 You cannot [1]drink the Lord's [a]cup and the demons' cup; you cannot partake of the Lord's [b]table and of the [c]demons' table.

C. The Christ into whose fellowship God has called us is all-inclusive; thus, in 1:9 *fellowship* denotes the partaking of, the participation in, and the enjoyment of the all-inclusive Christ—vv. 24, 30; 2:8, 10; 3:11; 5:7-8; 10:3-4; 11:3; 12:12; 15:20, 23, 45, 47.

1 Cor 1:9 [1]God is [a]faithful, through whom you were [b]called [2]into the [c]fellowship of His Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

1 Cor 1:24 But to [1]those who are [a]called, both [b]Jews and Greeks, Christ the [2c]power of God and the [d]wisdom of God.

1 Cor 1:30 But [1a]of Him you are [b]in Christ Jesus, who became [c]wisdom to us from God: both [2d]righteousness and [e]sanctification and [f]redemption,
1 Cor 2:8 Which none of the [a]rulers of this age have known; for if they had known, they would not have [b]crucified the [c]Lord of glory;
1 Cor 2:10 But to us God has [1a]revealed *them* through the [b]Spirit, for the Spirit [2]searches all things, even the [3c]depths of God.
1 Cor 3:11 For [1a]another foundation no one is able to lay besides [b]that which is laid, which is Jesus [c]Christ.
1 Cor 5:7 Purge out the old leaven that you may be a [1]new lump, even as you are unleavened; for our [2a]Passover, Christ, also has been sacrificed.
1 Cor 5:8 So then let us [a]keep the [1]feast, not with old [b]leaven, neither with the leaven of [c]malice and evil, but with the [d]unleavened *bread* of sincerity and truth.
1 Cor 10:3 And all ate the same [1]spiritual [a]food,
1 Cor 10:4 And all drank the same [1]spiritual [a]drink; for they drank of a [2]spiritual rock which followed *them*, and the rock was Christ.
1 Cor 11:3 But I want you to know that [1]Christ is the [a]head of every [2]man, and the man is the [b]head of the woman, and [3]God is the [c]head of Christ.
1 Cor 12:12 [1]For even as [2]the body is [a]one and has many [b]members, yet all the members of the body, being many, are one body, so also is the Christ.
1 Cor 15:20 [1]But now Christ has been [a]raised from the dead, the [2b]firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep.
1 Cor 15:23 But each one in his own order: the [1a]firstfruits, Christ; then [2b]those who are Christ's at His [c]coming;
1 Cor 15:45 So also it is written, "The first man, [a]Adam, became a [b]living [1]soul"; the last Adam *became* a [c]life-giving Spirit.
1 Cor 15:47 The first man is [1]out of the [a]earth, earthy; the [2]second man *is* [3]out of [b]heaven.

D. God has called us into the fellowship of His Son so that we may partake of Christ, participate in Him, and enjoy Him as our God-given portion—1:2, 9.

1 Cor 1:2 To the [1a]church of God which is [2]in [b]Corinth, [3]to those who have been [4c]sanctified [5]in Christ Jesus, the [6d]called saints, [7]with all those who [8e]call upon the name of our Lord Jesus Christ in every place, *who is* [9f]theirs and ours:
1 Cor 1:9 [1]God is [a]faithful, through whom you were [b]called [2]into the [c]fellowship of His Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

E. Christ Himself is actually the fellowship into which God has called us—v. 30:

1 Cor 1:30 But [1a]of Him you are [b]in Christ Jesus, who became [c]wisdom to us from God: both [2d]righteousness and [e]sanctification and [f]redemption,

1. To say that we have been called into the fellowship of Jesus Christ means that we have been called into Christ Himself as the unique fellowship; this is the fellowship of the incarnated, crucif ied, and resurrected Christ, the One who in resurrection is the life-giving Spirit—15:3-4, 45b.

1 Cor 15:3 For I delivered to you, first of all, that which also I [a]received, that [1]Christ [b]died for our [c]sins according to the [2d]Scriptures;
1 Cor 15:4 And that He was [a]buried, and that He has been [b]raised on the [c]third day according to the [d]Scriptures;
1 Cor 15:45b … the last Adam *became* a [c]life-giving Spirit.

2. God's intention is to make Christ His Son the center of His economy and to make Him everything to all the believers; this is why Paul says that we have been called into the fellowship of the Son, Jesus Christ our Lord—1:9.

1 Cor 1:9 [1]God is [a]faithful, through whom you were [b]called [2]into the [c]fellowship of His Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

F. Fellowship also means that we and Christ have become one and that we enjoy Him and He enjoys us—6:17:

1 Cor 6:17 But he who is [1a]joined to the Lord is [2b]one spirit.

1. We have been called into a mutuality in which all that Christ is becomes ours and all that we are in Christ becomes His; in fellowship we are one with Him, and He is one with us—12:12-13; 6:17; John 14:20.

1 Cor 12:12 [1]For even as [2]the body is [a]one and has many [b]members, yet all the members of the body, being many, are one body, so also is the Christ.

1 Cor 12:13 For also in [1a]one Spirit we were all [b]baptized into [2c]one Body, whether [3d]Jews or Greeks, whether [4]slaves or free, and were all given to [5e]drink one [f]Spirit.
1 Cor 6:17 But he who is [1a]joined to the Lord is [2b]one spirit.
John 14:20 In that [1a]day you will know that I am [b]in My Father, and you [c]in Me, and I [d]in you.

2. Such a fellowship is a matter of enjoyment—our enjoyment of the Triune God, the Triune God's enjoyment of us, and also the enjoyment which the believers have with one another; this is a wonderful, universal, mutual enjoyment—1 Cor. 5:8; 2 Cor. 13:14; 1 John 1:3-4, 7.

1 Cor 5:8 So then let us [a]keep the [1]feast, not with old [b]leaven, neither with the leaven of [c]malice and evil, but with the [d]unleavened *bread* of sincerity and truth.
2 Cor 13:14 The [1a]grace of the Lord Jesus Christ and the [b]love of God and the [c]fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.
1 John 1:3 That which we have [1]seen and heard we report [2]also to you that you also may have [3a]fellowship with us, and indeed our fellowship is with the [4]Father and with His Son Jesus Christ.
1 John 1:4 And these things we write that [1]our [2a]joy may be made full.
1 John 1:7 But if we [a]walk in the light as He [1]is in the light, we [2]have fellowship with one another, and the [3b]blood of [4]Jesus His Son [5]cleanses us from every [6]sin.

G. The fellowship of God's Son is carried out by the Spirit, for in our experience the fellowship of the Son becomes the fellowship of the Spirit and our regenerated spirit—2 Cor. 13:14; Phil. 2:1; 2 Tim. 4:22:

2 Cor 13:14 The [1a]grace of the Lord Jesus Christ and the [b]love of God and the [c]fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.
Phil 2:1 [1]If there is therefore any encouragement in Christ, if any [2a]consolation of love, if any [b]fellowship of spirit, if any [3c]tenderheartedness and [d]compassions,
2 Tim 4:22 The Lord be with your [1a]spirit. [2b]Grace be with you.

1. Experientially, our being one spirit with the Lord follows our being called by God into the fellowship of His Son—1 Cor. 15:45b; 6:17.

1 Cor 15:45b … the last Adam *became* a [c]life-giving Spirit.
1 Cor 6:17 But he who is [1a]joined to the Lord is [2b]one spirit.

2. The word *joined* in 6:17 is a synonym for *fellowship* in 1:9, for the joining is the fellowship; whenever we are one spirit with the Lord, we participate in the fellowship of God's Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

1 Cor 6:17 But he who is [1a]joined to the Lord is [2b]one spirit.
1 Cor 1:9 [1]God is [a]faithful, through whom you were [b]called [2]into the [c]fellowship of His Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

H. The fellowship of God's Son has become the fellowship that the apostles shared with the believers in His Body, the church, and should be the fellowship that we enjoy in the partaking of His blood and body at His table; such a fellowship is unique because the all-inclusive Christ is unique; it forbids any division among the members of His unique Body—Acts 2:42; 1 John 1:3; 1 Cor. 1:10-13a; 12:13.

Acts 2:42 And they continued steadfastly in the [1]teaching and the fellowship of the apostles, in the [a]breaking of bread and the [b]prayers.
1 John 1:3 That which we have [1]seen and heard we report [2]also to you that you also may have [3a]fellowship with us, and indeed our fellowship is with the [4]Father and with His Son Jesus Christ.
1 Cor 1:10 Now I beseech you, brothers, through the [1a]name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that you all [2b]speak the same thing and *that* there be no [3c]divisions among you, but *that* you be [4]attuned in the [d]same mind and in the same [5e]opinion.
1 Cor 1:11 For it has been made clear to me concerning you, my brothers, by those of *the household of* [1]Chloe, that there are [a]strifes among you.
1 Cor 1:12 Now [1a]I mean this, that each of you says, I am of [b]Paul, and I of [c]Apollos, and I of [d]Cephas, and I of [2]Christ.
1 Cor 1:13a Is [1]Christ [a]divided? …
1 Cor 12:13 For also in [1a]one Spirit we were all [b]baptized into [2c]one Body, whether [3d]Jews or Greeks, whether [4]slaves or free, and were all given to [5e]drink one [f]Spirit.

I. In 1:9 the fellowship is of the Son of God, but in 10:16 this fellowship becomes the fellowship of the Lord's body and blood:

1 Cor 1:9 [1]God is [a]faithful, through whom you were [b]called [2]into the [c]fellowship of His Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

1 Cor 10:16 The [a]cup of blessing which we [b]bless, is it not the [1]fellowship of the [c]blood of Christ? The [d]bread which we break, is it not the fellowship of the [e]body of Christ?

1. This indicates that Christ has passed through death and resurrection for our participation and enjoyment—John 1:14; 1 Cor. 15:3-4, 45b.

John 1:14 And the [1]Word became [2a]flesh and [3b]tabernacled among us (and [4c]we beheld His glory, glory as of the only Begotten [5]from the Father), full of [6d]grace and [e]reality.

1 Cor 15:3 For I delivered to you, first of all, that which also I [a]received, that [1]Christ [b]died for our [c]sins according to the [2d]Scriptures;

1 Cor 15:4 And that He was [a]buried, and that He has been [b]raised on the [c]third day according to the [d]Scriptures;

1 Cor 15:45b … the last Adam *became* a [c]life-giving Spirit.

2. The Son of God, Jesus Christ, has been processed, "cooked," to become the body and blood on the table; now "the cup of blessing which we bless" is "the fellowship of the blood of Christ," and "the bread which we break" is "the fellowship of the body of Christ"—10:16.

1 Cor 10:16 The [a]cup of blessing which we [b]bless, is it not the [1]fellowship of the [c]blood of Christ? The [d]bread which we break, is it not the fellowship of the [e]body of Christ?

II. The experience of the cross deepens both the vertical and the horizontal fellowship and enables us to know the life of the Body and live in the fellowship of the Body—Rom. 6:6; Gal. 2:20; Matt. 16:24; 1 Cor. 12:27:

Rom 6:6 [1]Knowing this, that our [2]old man has been [3a]crucified with *Him* in order that the [4b]body of sin might be [5]annulled, that we should no longer serve sin as slaves;

Gal 2:20 I am [1a]crucified with Christ; and *it is* [2]no longer I *who* live, but *it is* [3b]Christ *who* lives in me; and the [4]*life* which I now live in the flesh I [c]live in [5]faith, the [d]*faith* [6]of the [7]Son of God, who [8e]loved me and [f]gave Himself up for me.

Matt 16:24 Then Jesus said to His disciples, If anyone wants to come after Me, let him [1]deny [2]himself and take up his [3a]cross and [4]follow Me.

1 Cor 12:27 Now you are the Body of Christ, and [a]members individually.

A. We need the experience of the cross to deepen our experience of the divine fellowship—1:9, 24; 2:2:

1 Cor 1:9 [1]God is [a]faithful, through whom you were [b]called [2]into the [c]fellowship of His Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

1 Cor 1:24 But to [1]those who are [a]called, both [b]Jews and Greeks, Christ the [2c]power of God and the [d]wisdom of God.

1 Cor 2:2 For I did [1]not determine to know anything among you except [2]Jesus [a]Christ, and this One [b]crucified.

1. Without the cross, our fellowship is superficial; only the cross can remove the many obstacles to the divine fellowship and deepen our fellowship with the Lord and with one another—Rom. 6:6; Gal. 2:20; Matt. 16:24.

Rom 6:6 [1]Knowing this, that our [2]old man has been [3a]crucified with *Him* in order that the [4b]body of sin might be [5]annulled, that we should no longer serve sin as slaves;

Gal 2:20 I am [1a]crucified with Christ; and *it is* [2]no longer I *who* live, but *it is* [3b]Christ *who* lives in me; and the [4]*life* which I now live in the flesh I [c]live in [5]faith, the [d]*faith* [6]of the [7]Son of God, who [8e]loved me and [f]gave Himself up for me.

Matt 16:24 Then Jesus said to His disciples, If anyone wants to come after Me, let him [1]deny [2]himself and take up his [3a]cross and [4]follow Me.

2. Fellowship frees us from our sinful self through the cross; without the cross, there is no release, freedom, or liberty from the self and no genuine fellowship—1 Cor. 1:9, 24; 2:2; Gal. 2:20.

1 Cor 1:9 [1]God is [a]faithful, through whom you were [b]called [2]into the [c]fellowship of His Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

1 Cor 1:24 But to [1]those who are [a]called, both [b]Jews and Greeks, Christ the [2c]power of God and the [d]wisdom of God.

1 Cor 2:2 For I did [1]not determine to know anything among you except [2]Jesus [a]Christ, and this One [b]crucified.

Gal 2:20 I am [1a]crucified with Christ; and *it is* [2]no longer I *who* live, but *it is* [3b]Christ *who* lives in me; and the [4]*life* which I now live in the flesh I [c]live in [5]faith, the [d]*faith* [6]of the [7]Son of God, who [8e]loved me and [f]gave Himself up for me.

3. In Matthew 16:24 the Lord used the term *his cross*, indicating that there is a particular portion of the cross for each one of us in order to cross each one of us out:

Matt 16:24 Then Jesus said to His disciples, If anyone wants to come after Me, let him [1]deny [2]himself and take up his [3a]cross and [4]follow Me.

a. To bear the cross is to deny the self, to put the self to death, to apply the cross of Christ to the self all the time—Luke 9:23-25.

Luke 9:23 And He said to *them* all, If anyone wants to come after Me, let him deny himself and take up his [a]cross [b]daily and follow Me.

Luke 9:24 For whoever wants to save his soul-life shall [1]lose it; but whoever loses his soul-life for My sake, this one shall save it.

Luke 9:25 For what is a man profited if he [1]gains the whole world but loses or forfeits himself?

b. We are easily offended by others because we are so sensitive about ourselves; if we did not have such a strong self, we would not be offended by others.

c. If we have a strong self and are offended by everything and everyone, we cannot have real fellowship; in order for us to have horizontal fellowship, we need to deny ourselves—Matt. 16:24.

Matt 16:24 Then Jesus said to His disciples, If anyone wants to come after Me, let him [1]deny [2]himself and take up his [3a]cross and [4]follow Me.

B. The experience of the cross brings us into the fellowship of the Body of Christ—Rom. 6:6; 8:13; 12:4-5; 1 Cor. 1:18, 23-24; 2:2; 12:12-14, 27:

Rom 6:6 [1]Knowing this, that our [2]old man has been [3a]crucified with *Him* in order that the [4b]body of sin might be [5]annulled, that we should no longer serve sin as slaves;

Rom 8:13 For if you live according to the flesh, you must [1]die, but if by the Spirit you [2a]put to death the [3]practices of the body, you will live.

Rom 12:4 For just as in [a]one body we have [b]many members, and all the members do not have the [c]same [1]function,

Rom 12:5 So we who are many are one Body [1]in Christ, and individually [2a]members one of another.

1 Cor 1:18 For the [1a]word of the cross is to those who are [b]perishing [c]foolishness, but to us who are being [d]saved it is the [e]power of God.

1 Cor 1:23 But we [a]preach [1]Christ [b]crucified, to Jews a [c]stumbling block, and to Gentiles [d]foolishness,

1 Cor 1:24 But to [1]those who are [a]called, both [b]Jews and Greeks, Christ the [2c]power of God and the [d]wisdom of God.

1 Cor 2:2 For I did [1]not determine to know anything among you except [2]Jesus [a]Christ, and this One [b]crucified.

1 Cor 12:12 [1]For even as [2]the body is [a]one and has many [b]members, yet all the members of the body, being many, are one body, so also is the Christ.

1 Cor 12:13 For also in [1a]one Spirit we were all [b]baptized into [2c]one Body, whether [3d]Jews or Greeks, whether [4]slaves or free, and were all given to [5e]drink one [f]Spirit.

1 Cor 12:14 For the body is not one member but [a]many.

1 Cor 12:27 Now you are the Body of Christ, and [a]members individually.

1. The cross deals with our f lesh, self, and natural life so that we may know the life of the Body in reality—Matt. 16:24-26.

Matt 16:24 Then Jesus said to His disciples, If anyone wants to come after Me, let him [1]deny [2]himself and take up his [3a]cross and [4]follow Me.

Matt 16:25 For whoever wants to save his [a]soul-life shall [1]lose it; but whoever [2]loses his soul-life for My sake shall find it.

Matt 16:26 For what shall a man be profited if he gains the whole world, but forfeits his [1]soul-life? Or what shall a man give in exchange for his soul-life?

2. If our f lesh, self, and natural life are dealt with by the cross and if we submit to the headship of Christ and live the Body life, we will enjoy the fellowship of the Body—Gal. 2:20; 5:24; Phil. 3:3; Col. 1:18; 1 Cor. 10:16.

Gal 2:20 I am [1a]crucified with Christ; and *it is* [2]no longer I *who* live, but *it is* [3b]Christ *who* lives in me; and the [4]*life* which I now live in the flesh I [c]live in [5]faith, the [d]*faith* [6]of the [7]Son of God, who [8e]loved me and [f]gave Himself up for me.

Gal 5:24 [1]But they who are [a]of Christ Jesus [2]have [3b]crucified the [c]flesh with its passions and its lusts.

Phil 3:3 For we are the [1a]circumcision, the ones who [2]serve by the Spirit of God and [b]boast in Christ Jesus and [3]have no confidence in the [4c]flesh,

Col 1:18 And He is the [a]Head of the [b]Body, the church; He is the [c]beginning, the [1d]Firstborn from the dead, that He Himself might have the first place in all things;

1 Cor 10:16 The [a]cup of blessing which we [b]bless, is it not the [1]fellowship of the [c]blood of Christ? The [d]bread which we break, is it not the fellowship of the [e]body of Christ?

3. Our relationship with the Head is that of obedience, whereas our relationship with the Body is that of fellowship—Col. 2:19; 1 John 1:3; 1 Cor. 10:16-17:

Col 2:19 And [1]not [a]holding the Head, [2b]out from whom all the [3]Body, being richly supplied and knit together by means of the [4]joints and [5]sinews, [6]grows with the [7]growth of God.

1 John 1:3 That which we have [1]seen and heard we report [2]also to you that you also may have [3a]fellowship with us, and indeed our fellowship is with the [4]Father and with His Son Jesus Christ.

1 Cor 10:16 The [a]cup of blessing which we [b]bless, is it not the [1]fellowship of the [c]blood of Christ? The [d]bread which we break, is it not the fellowship of the [e]body of Christ?

1 Cor 10:17 Seeing that there is [1a]one bread, we who are many are one Body; for we all [2]partake of the one bread.

a. Fellowship implies the fact that we are limited and inadequate and that we are willing to accept what comes from others and take it as our own.

b. Fellowship is to acknowledge that we need the Body—Rom. 12:4-5.

Rom 12:4 For just as in [a]one body we have [b]many members, and all the members do not have the [c]same [1]function,

Rom 12:5 So we who are many are one Body [1]in Christ, and individually [2a]members one of another.

c. We can live in the Body and have fellowship in the Body only when our flesh, self, and natural life have been dealt with; otherwise, we will not see the importance of fellowship—Gal. 2:20; 5:24; Phil. 3:3.

Gal 2:20 I am [1a]crucified with Christ; and *it is* [2]no longer I *who* live, but *it is* [3b]Christ *who* lives in me; and the [4]*life* which I now live in the flesh I [c]live in [5]faith, the [d]*faith* [6]of the [7]Son of God, who [8e]loved me and [f]gave Himself up for me.

Gal 5:24 [1]But they who are [a]of Christ Jesus [2]have [3b]crucified the [c]flesh with its passions and its lusts.

Phil 3:3 For we are the [1a]circumcision, the ones who [2]serve by the Spirit of God and [b]boast in Christ Jesus and [3]have no confidence in the [4c]flesh,

d. God must bring us to the point where we cannot go on without fellowship—1 Cor. 12:14-27; John 15:4-6; 1 Thes. 3:8.

1 Cor 12:14 For the body is not one member but [a]many.

1 Cor 12:15 If the foot should say, Because I am not a hand, I am not of the body, *it is* not *that* because of this it is not of the body.

1 Cor 12:16 And if the ear should say, Because I am not an eye, I am not of the body, *it is* not *that* because of this it is not of the body.

1 Cor 12:17 If the whole body were an eye, where would the hearing be? If the whole were the hearing, where would the smelling be?

1 Cor 12:18 But now God has [a]placed the members, each one of them, in the body, even as He [b]willed.

1 Cor 12:19 And if all were one member, where would the body be?

1 Cor 12:20 But now the members are many, but the body [a]one.

1 Cor 12:21 And the eye cannot say to the hand, I have no need of you; nor again the head to the feet, I have no need of you.
1 Cor 12:22 But much rather the members of the body which seem to be weaker are necessary.
1 Cor 12:23 And those *members* of the body which we consider to be less honorable, these we clothe with more abundant honor; and our uncomely *members come to* have more abundant comeliness,
1 Cor 12:24 But our comely *members* have no need. But God has [1]blended the body together, giving more abundant honor to the *member* that lacked,
1 Cor 12:25 That there would be no [a]division in the body, but *that* the members would have the [1]same care for one another.
1 Cor 12:26 And whether one member [a]suffers, all the members suffer with *it*; or one member is glorified, all the members [b]rejoice with *it*.
1 Cor 12:27 Now you are the Body of Christ, and [a]members individually.
John 15:4 [a]Abide [b]in Me and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit [1]of itself unless it abides in the vine, so neither *can* you unless you abide in Me.
John 15:5 I am the vine; you are the branches. He who abides in Me and I in him, he bears [a]much fruit; for apart from Me you can do [b]nothing.
John 15:6 If one does not abide in Me, he is [1a]cast out as a branch and is dried up; and they gather them and cast *them* into the [b]fire, and they are [c]burned.
1 Thes 3:8 Because now we [1]live if you [2a]stand firm in the Lord.

4. Once the f lesh, the self, and the natural life have been dealt with by the cross, we will know the life of the Body, we will see the importance of fellowship, and we will not be able to live apart from this fellowship—Rom. 6:6; 12:4-5; 1 Cor. 1:9; 2:2; 10:16-17; 12:14-27; 1 John 1:3, 7.

Rom 6:6 [1]Knowing this, that our [2]old man has been [3a]crucified with *Him* in order that the [4b]body of sin might be [5]annulled, that we should no longer serve sin as slaves;
Rom 12:4 For just as in [a]one body we have [b]many members, and all the members do not have the [c]same [1]function,
Rom 12:5 So we who are many are one Body [1]in Christ, and individually [2a]members one of another.
1 Cor 1:9 [1]God is [a]faithful, through whom you were [b]called [2]into the [c]fellowship of His Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.
1 Cor 2:2 For I did [1]not determine to know anything among you except [2]Jesus [a]Christ, and this One [b]crucified.
1 Cor 10:16 The [a]cup of blessing which we [b]bless, is it not the [1]fellowship of the [c]blood of Christ? The [d]bread which we break, is it not the fellowship of the [e]body of Christ?
1 Cor 10:17 Seeing that there is [1a]one bread, we who are many are one Body; for we all [2]partake of the one bread.
1 Cor 12:14 For the body is not one member but [a]many.
1 Cor 12:15 If the foot should say, Because I am not a hand, I am not of the body, *it is* not *that* because of this it is not of the body.
1 Cor 12:16 And if the ear should say, Because I am not an eye, I am not of the body, *it is* not *that* because of this it is not of the body.
1 Cor 12:17 If the whole body were an eye, where would the hearing be? If the whole were the hearing, where would the smelling be?
1 Cor 12:18 But now God has [a]placed the members, each one of them, in the body, even as He [b]willed.
1 Cor 12:19 And if all were one member, where would the body be?
1 Cor 12:20 But now the members are many, but the body [a]one.
1 Cor 12:21 And the eye cannot say to the hand, I have no need of you; nor again the head to the feet, I have no need of you.
1 Cor 12:22 But much rather the members of the body which seem to be weaker are necessary.
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