

LESSON 2C4

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THE CHURCH, A MYSTERY ENTITY

The Nature of the Church and the Church Age

Who is the church? Who is not the Church? What is the charge of the Church?

A FURTHER LOOK AT THE MYSTERY OF THE CHURCH

What is this thing called eccle'sia; this wondrous thing called eccle'sia?

Oh, who has known this mystery or how you came to capture me?

You took my heart, one wonderful day; and you've kept my heart until this day!

So now I thank the Lord in heaven above;

For showing me - - YOUR love!

The church is on earth (as it is today.)

Chapter 4, The church is no longer mentioned

Chapter 4, John is called to "come up here" by a voice like a loud trumpet.

Discussion: Notions of the character and purpose of the church

Ecclesia: *The called out ones.*

The Gentiles were and are called to be fellow heirs of the house of Israel

THE MYSTERY OF THE NEW TESTAMENT CHURCH (THE BODY)

Old testament prophetic Scriptures speak of a time when the Gentiles will come in but does not speak of the church; Note Simeon's Prophecy spoken to Mary. Jesus was to become: "A light to lighten the gentiles."

Paradigms of "the church"

It is difficult to break free on long held paradigms to accept another methodology or viewpoint. God Leads us into becoming a member of the church (ec-cles-si'-a)

How do we become members or partakers of this mystery body?

1Corinthians 12; 12-27

12. For as the body is one, and hath many members, and all the members of that one body, being many, are one body: so also is Christ. **13For by one Spirit are we all baptized into one body, whether we be Jews or Gentiles, whether we be bond or free; and have been all made to drink into one Spirit. 14For the body is not one member, but many.**

THE MYSTERY OF THE CHURCH AS ONE BODY, IT IS CHRIST'S BODY UPON THE EARTH

READ: The church as the MYSTERY (*Gk. musterion*) body of Christ Jesus.

SINCE WE ARE ONE BODY THERE IS AN Interconnectivity of all the members - -

READ:

Romans 16:25 - - [Benediction] Now to Him who is able to establish you according to my gospel and the preaching of Jesus Christ, according to the revelation of the mystery kept secret since the world began

READ

Ephesians Chapter 3: 1-6

1For this cause I Paul, the prisoner of Jesus Christ for you Gentiles, 2If ye have heard of the dispensation of the grace of God which is given me to you: 3How that by revelation he made known unto me the mystery; (as I wrote afore in few words, 4Whereby, when ye read, ye may understand my knowledge in the mystery of Christ) 5Which in other ages was not made known unto the sons of men, as it is now revealed unto his holy apostles and prophets by the Spirit; 6That the Gentiles should be fellowheirs, and of the same body, and partakers of his promise in Christ by the gospel:

READ:

Ephesians 4: 15-16

15But speaking the truth in love, may grow up into him in all things, which is the head, even Christ: 16From whom the whole body fitly joined together and compacted by that which every joint supplieth, according to the effectual working in the measure of every part, maketh increase of the body unto the edifying of itself in love.

The mystery of two becoming one, quoted in most Christian wedding ceremonies

READ:

Colossians: 2:19 - - *And not holding the Head, from which all the body by joints and bands having nourishment ministered, and knit together, increaseth with the increase of God.*

The church as the mystical body of Christ Jesus.

Interconnectivity of all the members

READ:

1Romans 12; 4-8

4For as we have many members in one body, and all members have not the same office:

5So we, being many, are one body in Christ, and every one members one of another.

6Having then gifts differing according to the grace that is given to us, whether prophecy, let us prophesy according to the proportion of faith;

7Or ministry, let us wait on our ministering: or he that teacheth, on teaching;

8Or he that exhorteth, on exhortation: he that giveth, let him do it with simplicity; he that ruleth, with diligence; he that sheweth mercy, with cheerfulness.

READ:

1 Corinthians 12:

For as the body is one, and hath many members, and all the members of that one body, being many, are one body: so also is Christ.

13For by one Spirit are we all baptized into one body, whether we be Jews or Gentiles, whether we be bond or free; and have been all made to drink into one Spirit.

14For the body is not one member, but many.

15If the foot shall say, Because I am not the hand, I am not of the body; is it therefore not of the body?

16And if the ear shall say, Because I am not the eye, I am not of the body; is it therefore not of the body?

17If the whole body were an eye, where were the hearing? If the whole were hearing, where were the smelling?

18But now hath God set the members every one of them in the body, as it hath pleased him.

19And if they were all one member, where were the body?

20But now are they many members, yet but one body.

21And the eye cannot say unto the hand, I have no need of thee: nor again the head to the feet, I have no need of you.

22Nay, much more those members of the body, which seem to be more feeble, are necessary:

23And those members of the body, which we think to be less honourable, upon these we bestow more abundant honour; and our uncomely parts have more abundant comeliness.

24For our comely parts have no need: but God hath tempered the body together, having given more abundant honour to that part which lacked.

25That there should be no schism in the body; but that the members should have the same care one for another. 26And whether one member suffer, all the members suffer with it; or one member be honoured, all the members rejoice with it. 27Now ye are the body of Christ, and members in particular.