

Looking At Ourselves As Members Of Christ

I. Introduction:

A. In the process of conversion, one is baptized into Jesus Christ (**Romans 6:3** and **Galatians 3:26-29**).

1. Being in Christ is a new life (**II Corinthians 5:17**).
2. Ultimately, salvation is “in Christ Jesus” (**II Timothy 2:10**).

B. Being in Christ means that we are members of His body (**I Corinthians 12:12-13**; **I Corinthians 12:27**).

1. His body is His church (**Ephesians 1:22-23**, **Colossians 1:18**, and **Colossians 1:24**).
2. Thus, when you are talking about those in Christ or in His body, you are talking about members of the church; saints (**I Corinthians 1:2**).

II. Body: Your Bodies Are Members Of Christ (**I Corinthians 6:15-18**).

A. Think about being joined to Christ (**Ephesians 5:30**).

1. So, IF those in Christ err, there is a certain question to ask. Being members of His body, do those erring think Christ is the minister of sin (**Galatians 2:17**)?
2. Can one separate themselves from the head while still being in the body (**Ephesians 4:15-16**, **Colossians 2:8-10**, and **Colossians 2:19**)?

B. Now, we understand that if a person errs they separate themselves from their relationship with God (**Isaiah 50:1**, **Isaiah 59:1-2**, **John 8:31**, **John 15:1-10**, **I John 2:24**, and **II John 1:9**). With that understanding, consider the point Paul was making to the Corinthians.

1. Saints are to consider ourselves as true body members of Christ working together as one body (**I Corinthians 12:14-20**).
2. Think about how if one who is part of the body of Christ joins to something sinful he or she is polluting the body (**Ezekiel 20:39**); polluting the name of our Lord (**Isaiah 48:11**).
3. Now, back to Corinth... What about the principle of leaven when a body member does something like commit fornication (**I Corinthians 5:1-13**)?

C. Building upon the previous point... While individual responsibility is certainly the greater principle of the Scriptures (**Romans 14:11-12**), we cannot divorce ourselves from our being members one of another (**Romans 12:4-5**).

1. If one member of the body decides to err, what about the possible effects upon the rest of the body (**Ecclesiastes 9:18**, **Romans 9:1-3**, **Romans 14:13**, **I Corinthians 15:33**, **Revelation 2:18-22**, etc.)?
2. Knowing the value of reputation (**Proverbs 22:1**); what could one member's actions do to the body of our Lord?

III. Conclusion: Saints, we are members of Christ and each other. Act unselfishly because you are not just on your own here (**Philippians 2:3-5**).