

Body Life

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I. Introduction.

- A. Jesus Christ's intention is to go change the world.
- B. The strategy is in the Scriptures and we cannot fail if we learn God's pattern.
- C. Text: Ephesians 4.

II. God's strategy.

- A. Its nature is that it will be set forth in the form of a body.
 - 1. Jesus came and touched us in the flesh.
 - 2. God has always intended to reach the world by a body—the band of Christians locally or in the world.
- B. Every Christian has one or more of the gifts.
 - 1. The gifts are given to give us a place in the body. (I Peter 4)
 - 2. Our job as Christians is to discover these gifts.
- C. The power of the body.
 - 1. This is Christ Himself.
 - 2. Christ died for us in order that He might live in you.
- D. The leadership of the body.
 - 1. These are coaches to prepare the rest of the body.
 - 2. The intent is that the other Christians might do the work of the ministry.
- E. The goal of the body.
 - 1. Maturity.
 - 2. Evangelism.

III. The nature of the body.

- A. Everyone else is to feed on your kind of life in the body.

B. The body is for ministry to one another—admonishment, encouraging, exhorting, loving, forgiving, etc. In this, the world becomes aware of a new kind of life.

C. We bear one another's burdens. (Galatians 6)

D. Too many groups of Christians are people pretending to be spiritual, which is hypocrisy.

Application questions:

1. What is the body to look like?

2. What is God's goal and how does He accomplish it through the body?

3. How do you see hypocrisy in the Body of Christ and how does "body life" address this?
