



# THE BODY OF CHRIST

MARCH 2022 COLLEGE CONFERENCE

COLUMBUS, OH

## THE BODY OF CHRIST IS NOT A METAPHOR

- <sup>22</sup> *And he put all things under his feet and gave him as head over all things to the church, <sup>23</sup> which is his body, the fullness of him who fills all in all. Ephesians 1:22–23*
- <sup>12</sup> *to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ, <sup>13</sup> until we all attain to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to mature manhood, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ, Ephesians 4:12–13 (ESV)*

## THE BODY OF CHRIST IS NOT A METAPHOR

*from whom the whole body, joined and held together by every joint with which it is equipped, when each part is working properly, makes the body grow so that it builds itself up in love.*

Ephesians 4:16 (ESV)

The background is a dark teal gradient. In the corners, there are decorative white and light blue circuit-like lines with small circles at the ends, resembling a printed circuit board or a network diagram.

THE BODY OF CHRIST IS NOT A METAPHOR  
—WOW!

*Now you are the body of Christ and  
individually members of it.* 1 Corinthians 12:27 (ESV)

## PROPERLY CONSIDER YOURSELF FOR THE BODY

*For by the grace given to me I say to everyone among you not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think, but to think with sober judgment, each according to the measure of faith that God has assigned. – Romans 12:3*

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## THE BODY OF CHRIST

*<sup>4</sup> For as in one body we have many members, and the members do not all have the same function, <sup>5</sup> so we, though many, are one body in Christ, and individually members one of another.*

– Romans 12:4-5



# THE BODY OF CHRIST – MEMBERS ONE OF ANOTHER

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EACH MEMBER HAS GIFTS THAT DIFFER

*Having gifts that differ according to the  
grace given to us* – Romans 12:6

## THE GIFTS IN ROMANS

*if prophecy, in proportion to our faith;<sup>7</sup> if service, in our serving; the one who teaches, in his teaching;<sup>8</sup> the one who exhorts, in his exhortation; the one who contributes, in generosity; the one who leads, with zeal; the one who does acts of mercy, with cheerfulness. - Romans 12:6-8*

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*Prophecy,  
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our faith*

In the New Testament, as in the Old, the prominent idea is not *prediction*, but the inspired delivery of warning, exhortation, instruction, judging, and making manifest the secrets of the heart. Vincent, M. R. (1887)

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*Service,  
In our  
serving*

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*The one who  
exhorts,  
In his exhortation*

“to cause someone to be encouraged or consoled, either by verbal or non-verbal means — ‘to encourage, to console, encouragement.’”

Louw, J. P., & Nida, E. A.

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# THE BODY OF CHRIST – MEMBERS ONE OF ANOTHER

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# PRESENT YOUR BODIES AS A LIVING SACRIFICE FOR THE BODY OF CHRIST

*I appeal to you therefore, brothers, by the mercies  
of God, to present your bodies as a living  
sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is  
your spiritual worship. – Romans 12:1*

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Present  
your  
bodies

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A  
living  
sacrifice

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## Spiritual worship

“our rational service”;  
and surely it is the  
most rational and  
exalted occupation of  
God’s reasonable  
creatures.

-JFB





# BE TRANSFORMED BY THE RENEWAL OF YOUR MIND

*Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect. – Romans*

12:2

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## The World:

*For all that is in the world—the desires of the flesh and the desires of the eyes and pride of life*

– 1 John 2:16

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Conformed  
**συσχηματίζομαι**: to form or mold one's behavior in accordance with a particular pattern or set of standards—'to shape one's behavior, to conform one's life.'

Louw, J. P., & Nida, E. A. (1996).

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Be transformed  
**μεταμορφόομαι<sup>a</sup>**: to change the essential form or nature of something—‘to become, to change, to be changed into, to be transformed.

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Renewal  
**ἀνακαίνωσις**  
to cause something to become new and different, with the implication of becoming superior—‘to make new, renewal.’

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## How are we renewed?

- “wholly unattainable save through the constraining power of the love of Christ.” – JFB
- “Happens as the divine life continually adds into him heavenly and divine elements. As long as this brother is in fellowship with the saints and enjoying the life of Christ, we can trust that the Lord will renew his mind.” -Chu

# THE POWERS OF A TRANSFORMED PERSON

*Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect. –*

Romans 12:2

*That by testing  
you may discern  
what is the will  
of God*

Testing: to try to learn the genuineness of something by examination and testing, often through actual use—‘to test, to examine, to try to determine the genuineness of, testing.’

Louw, J. P., & Nida, E. A. (1996)

