

THE HEAD AND BODY

**By
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We'll begin in Matthew 17:1-9, "*And after six days Jesus taketh Peter, James, and John his brother, and bringeth them up into an high mountain apart, 2 And was transfigured before them: and his face did shine as the sun, and his raiment was white as the light. 3 And, behold, there appeared unto them Moses and Elias talking with him. 4 Then answered Peter, and said unto Jesus, Lord, it is good for us to be here: if thou wilt, let us make here three tabernacles; one for thee, and one for Moses, and one for Elias. 5 While he yet spake, behold, a bright cloud overshadowed them: and behold a voice out of the cloud, which said, This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased; hear ye him. 6 And when the disciples heard it, they fell on their face, and were sore afraid. 7 And Jesus came and touched them, and said, Arise, and be not afraid. 8 And when they had lifted up their eyes, they saw no man, save Jesus only. 9 And as they came down from the mountain, Jesus charged them, saying, Tell the vision to no man, until the Son of man be risen again from the dead.*" Also Mark 9:8-9, "*And suddenly, when they had looked round about, they saw no man any more, save Jesus only with themselves. 9 And as they came down from the mountain, he charged them that they should tell no man what things they had seen, till the Son of man were risen from the dead.*"

I want you to look at a few things here. The first part of this in Matthew 17, "*His face did shine as the sun...*" And what is significant in the face? This word "face"...regarding John the Baptist it is said he was going before the face of the Lord. And every word here has significance. It could have just said 'He shined as the sun.' It didn't have to say "face" but it did because the "face" distinguishes a certain thing. And it goes back into Israel when God's face would shine on them they were in the blessing of the Lord. When God's face was turned from them, they were not. Everything goes back and is inside the Law and the prophets: fulfilling the Law and the prophets. His

face did shine. Numbers 6:25-27, “ *The Lord make his face shine upon thee, and be gracious unto thee: 26 The Lord lift up his countenance upon thee, and give thee peace. 27 And they shall put my name upon the children of Israel; and I will bless them.*” The Lord made His face to shine upon them. His face did shine as the sun.

And then His raiment, His clothing was white as light – the purity of the Lord. But what I really want us to see is when they looked they fell on their face – signifying death. When John saw the Lord in the book of Revelation what did John do? He fell on his face, and it says the Lord laid His right hand upon him. That’s signifying His power, His resurrection; seated at His right hand, the power of God. And with His hand upon John he was raised up in Newness of Life. They fell on their face: their identity. And when they looked around they saw no man any more save Jesus only with themselves. Saw no man any more. The “Jesus only” people have seen this – no man; but there’s a greater understanding than just “Jesus is God”, although He is. They saw no man any more with themselves. That’s why I like Mark’s version. They found themselves IN CHRIST. That’s what it’s speaking of. They found their identity in Christ. They saw no man any more: the first man had passed away.

That’s why He said tell no man what you’ve seen until after the Resurrection because it wasn’t real; it wasn’t in force until His death, burial and resurrection. Here He was transfigured before them. He shined as the sun, as the light, as the understanding, as the knowledge of God before them. He shined – He was their Light. Moses wasn’t the fulness of the Light; Elijah wasn’t the fulness of the Light. CHRIST is the fulness of the Light. He summed up everything there in Moses and Elijah – all the Law and the prophets. And He shines as the sun: as the understanding of God, the Light that they would see by. No longer seeing by Elijah or by Moses, but seeing what Elijah said, seeing what Moses said in the face of Jesus Christ. It was if you will, doing away with Moses. He didn’t come to destroy Moses; but He came to fulfil: to bring forth the full understanding of Moses, the full understanding of Elijah, the full understanding of David, Solomon. You can go on and on and reference any one of them. But it’s brought into the face of Christ: in the understanding of HIM – the face.

Turn to 1 Corinthians 13:12, And something here really struck me. “*For now we see through a glass, darkly; but then face to face: now I know in part; but then shall I know even as also I am known.*” KNOW EVEN AS ALSO I AM

KNOWN. One time I pretty much got kicked out of a fellowship because of this. A lady said we've always believed we are going to know (when we get to heaven) as we know each other. She said my Grand Daddy believed it that way, and my Daddy, and now I do. But I wasn't concerned with what their Daddy believed. I'm not being mean, but the scripture doesn't mean that. I'm not saying we won't know each other as you go on. They knew Moses and Elijah there, but that's not what this scripture is saying. It is saying you will know AS GOD KNOWS you: identity face-to-face: identity to identity; identity OF Christ to our identity IN Christ – identity to identity. And that's how most of us don't know: face-to-face. His face, His understanding; the understanding of God relating to us: that's face-to-face. Church to Head because that's where He knows us. He doesn't know us by flesh. 2 Corinthians 5:16 says, *"Wherefore henceforth know we no man after the flesh: yea, though we have known Christ after the flesh, yet now henceforth know we him no more."*

How does God know us then? By the Spirit, but more than that. As the Church: that's how He knows us. And that's the identity that God wishes us to know. And we understand the identity of the Church in the face of Christ: in the understanding of Christ. We don't understand that identity anywhere else. Do you realize you can not understand the identity of the Church anywhere but in its Head? That's the only place you can understand its identity and your relationship with Him. And if you don't understand it there, you just won't understand it.

Go to Ezekiel 43:10-11, *"Thou son of man, shew the house to the house of Israel, that they may be ashamed of their iniquities: and let them measure the pattern. 11 And if they be ashamed of all that they have done, shew them the form of the house, and the fashion thereof, and the goings out thereof, and the comings in thereof, and all the forms thereof, and all the ordinances thereof, and all the forms thereof, and all the laws thereof: and write it in their sight, that they may keep the whole form thereof, and all the ordinances thereof, and do them."* Show the House to the House. Identity to Identity. That's doesn't make sense naturally, but he's saying show the House, the Temple; measured out according to the pattern, the pattern shown in the mount. Show the House to the whole House. And something that really struck me is when you deal with Israel you deal with God's thought. Exodus 4:22-23, *"And thou shalt say unto Pharaoh, Thus saith the Lord, Israel is my son, even my firstborn: 23 And I say unto thee, Let my son go, that he may serve me: and if thou refuse to let him go, behold, I will slay thy son,*

even thy firstborn.” God comprehended them as His Son. They didn’t comprehend themselves that way – as His Son, but that was how HE comprehended them. The problem with Israel was they never comprehended that. They never apprehended as Paul said “apprehended”. Philippians 3:12, “...*if that I may apprehend that for which also I am apprehended of Christ Jesus.*” Let’s get a hold of what we’ve been purchased for. Let’s get a hold of what Christ has brought us to. Paul is saying let’s get a hold of it. Let us understand it: let us live it; let us dwell there and comprehend it. But looking at things on this earth tells you this is not so: it is not comprehended. It is so in Christ, but it is not comprehended: it is not known, because if it was known it would get rid of all these ideas we now have in religion.

Think about it. Israel had ONE Temple, ONE House, ONE Tabernacle, ONE City – all related to ONE. All the work of the ministry, all the work of the Body related to that One House. It didn’t relate to houses or denominations or different sects of Israel. Denominations today are different sects of Christianity. In the Truth of Christ it is not so. It is as in Ephesians 1:22-23, “...*the church, 23 Which is his body, the fulness of him that filleth all in all.*” And the reason these ideas are so bad is they don’t bring the true understanding of Christ, and most ideas then become the ideas of the Baptist or Catholic or Pentecostal. It comes to the idea of “church” as it relates to a Catholic or Pentecostal but not the Church as it relates to Christ. The Truth of Church only relates to Christ. Just like the True Tabernacle in Israel only related to one pattern. It’s the same way now: related only to One – Christ. It had many members with many tribes. And even when you get into the tribes like the Levitical Priesthood, they have their work; but their work related to One.

Do you realize that? You go through the book of Numbers and you can look at the works of Israel, the Body, the Church. Certain parts of the Priesthood had certain jobs like putting the veil on the Ark and moving the furniture. It never dawned on me until a couple of years ago when they crossed the Jordan that the Ark was veiled because they had to put the veil on it when it moved. Every tribe, every member had works, and those works related to One Tabernacle. The House to the House. The pattern to the pattern, and they were measured out of God through the ministry. It started out with Moses and Aaron down to the people. And the people then had to work according to the pattern that was shown. They didn’t just go out and make this thing any old way. That’s where this understanding out here in the earth is so messed up because our understanding is, well you have your belief and

I have mine. You have your idea of God and I have mine. You have your religion with God and I have mine.

No. He's got ONE idea: He's got ONE thought. Now that One thought may be carried out in different measures in the Body, but all those measures relate back to that One thought. That One thought is CHRIST relating to His Body, which is The Church. This thing came off the pages to me! HEAD AND BODY, Head and Body. Christ and The Church. This is why it's so messed up in our natural understanding of the Church, because it's other than Head and Body. It's teaching another Gospel than Head and Body. It's relating the Church to buildings, places, times and understandings that are other than the Head and the Body. It's Head and Body, and the Body relates to the Head: the understanding of Christ, of Him. It doesn't have any other relationship but to Him, and the measure of HIM that is measured in every part. It's HIM and HE is measured out and functions. It has to function. You can't say you have nothing to do. Then He has no function in the earth. You might as well go home, watch TV and read a little of your Bible. With no function in the earth what reason would there be for the Church in the earth? Ephesians 1:22-23, "*And hath put all things under his feet, and gave him to be the head over all things to the church, 23 Which is his body, the fulness of him that filleth all in all.*" The Head – the preeminence, the order. The Order of the Church is Christ, His Body, the fulness of Him. And if your understanding of Church is anything other than this, it's missing the mark. I used to make the statement that we can have Church anywhere because "Church" was preaching, "Church" was shouting, "Church" was singing and dancing, "Church" was feeling the presence of the Lord. And it may include all those things, but the Church is HIS BODY, the fulness of Him. It's where His fulness is contained. And you can't find His fulness in any one part because it's measured out of many.

If it was found in one part Paul wouldn't have written what he wrote in 1 Corinthians 12 about the Body – hand and foot: about all the parts of the Body. And that if all were seeing, where would be the hearing? Because Christ is measured out not in One although it is One Body. He's measured out just like in the type in Israel. The whole order of ministry of the Tabernacle was not measured out in one although it is One – Christ being the Tabernacle, we being the Tabernacle. Hebrews 3:6, "*But Christ as a son over his own house; whose house are we, if we hold fast the confidence and the rejoicing of the hope firm unto the end.*" That whole ministry of the Head is not measured out in one. It's measured out in many just like the

type. So the whole is important. That's why it is important for the whole Body to function. That's why when we close down part of the Body we're closing down the Work of the Lord. Not in its fulness, but if it does not hit us just right, we easily can close it down and not search it out, and look into it for the understanding of Christ. And if we look into it and there's not an understanding of Christ it's a different matter.

But now let's go to Colossians. Paul had told the Ephesians Christ is the Head and you are the Body. He is the fulness that fills all members – all in all: all understanding in all parts; all measure in all parts – ALL IN ALL. He is the All that fills the All: the “ALL” being all members and He is the “ALL” that fills them. Colossians 1:18-25, “*And he is the head of the body, the church: who is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead; that in all things he might have the preeminence. 19 For it pleased the Father that in him should all fulness dwell; 20 And, having made peace through the blood of his cross, by him to reconcile all things unto himself; by him, I say, whether they be things in earth, or things in heaven. 21 And you, that were sometime alienated and enemies in your mind by wicked works, yet now hath he reconciled 22 In the body of his flesh through death, to present you holy and unblameable and unreprouvable in his sight: 23 If ye continue in the faith grounded and settled, and be not moved away from the hope of the gospel, which ye have heard, and which was preached to every creature which is under heaven; whereof I Paul am made a minister; 24 Who now rejoice in my sufferings for you, and fill up that which is behind of the afflictions of Christ in my flesh for his body's sake, which is the church; 25 Whereof I am made a minister, according to the dispensation of God which is given to me for you, to fulfil the word of God.*” Here's the fulness. It pleased the Father that in Christ should dwell all fulness, and He's the Head of the Body which is the Church. It goes back to face-to-face: identity to identity. To understand what you are, you must understand Who He is because He is your Life. But this is where we get in trouble because most of our living is not unto Christ as our Life. Most of our living is still out here in to the world. This is where the rich young ruler got in trouble. Jesus set before him the commandments and the young ruler said I do the commandments. Jesus said there's one thing you lack: sell all that you have; lose your life and find it in ME. Find it in the Church, find it in My Body – in ME. Unless you lose your life you shall not find Life. And where you find that Life is in the Church because The Life that is in the Church is Christ.

Folks, where do we really share Christ from one to another: person to person, heart to heart, mind to mind? He's in His Church. What is He in His Church to do? He's in His Church to reconcile the world to Himself. Paul says He has given to us the ministry of reconciliation. We read this also in John 17. God has put the same Word in us that He put in Christ. Jesus said I am come that they may have Life: to reconcile the world unto Himself. The ministry doesn't reconcile the world to a religion or any particular thought except to one that is Christ. And it doesn't edify the Church in anything other than Him. The ministry also is to edify the Body of Christ. And it doesn't edify the Church if it is anything other than Him. It shouldn't, but most of what is out here in religion loses the essence of Him. And until the understanding that He is works in us, we will work out of our own understanding. Until His Light begins to appear we'll work out of our own understanding, and it's our own understanding relating to God. When the Light begins to appear, the Light brings correction, the Light brings Truth, honesty, and sincerity because the Light is Who He is – what He is!

So the understanding of Him brings a different thought, a different mind. It isn't a bad thing, but I used to think of "Church" as the building I went to. I was no different than anyone else – preaching and singing. That was my relationship, and my understanding of Church. When you said "Church" that's what I thought of: where I was going to go on Sunday morning. I read the Bible, I didn't see what it said, but I read it. I didn't hear the Word in it, but I read it. But then I started to hear The Word in it, and allow that Word to have place, have preeminence in my heart in those areas. I know it doesn't have full place in all areas, but as I've allowed, He's come forth in understanding. God speaks in us, and we can easily not allow it: not let it stand. Usually it is because of ideas, thoughts that have been placed in us from before. Many of us get "preached to" from the time we are children. And we grow up and have these ideas in us from the time we were children. And they are not necessarily all finished, but it's hard for us to give them up.

Unless we see the greater – we won't. I'm saying this to you because I was faced with this. I was either going to allow the Lord to change my mind, or I wasn't. I had been pastoring a Church and some of the people were disgruntled with me. I was driving one day to minister to another fellowship and the Lord spoke to me. All He said was "Jesus". That's all He said but in the saying of "Jesus" this Truth began to flood my heart. I knew I could either go away from it or continue on in this Truth that God was laying in my heart. And I thought, where can I go because I can't take this Truth and

play with it over here. What this was doing was getting rid of a lot of my own understanding: a lot of my own beliefs. But it was also creating a separation. I didn't understand why there was such a separation between me and other believers. I couldn't understand why people couldn't just sit down and look at the Word and let the Spirit of the Lord reason with their hearts. I couldn't understand why they don't want to search things out. But this is what I was facing.

Folks, we can either grab hold of this: "The Church, which is His Body, the fulness of Him" and realize that the fulness of Christ is in His Church, or not. The fulness – His completion – all that He is and desired is right there. And the "not" is we can go to Church. We can go Sunday morning and Wednesday night and Saturday. And we may do that: come to meetings every night. We can either live in the reality of what the Church is or we can not. We can begin to take the House and show it to the House, which are those which He's purchased with His own blood, and really declare to them what their identity is. That's why Ezekiel was told to go show the House to the House. And they didn't love Ezekiel when he ran out there and began to declare what God had said. They didn't raise him up and put him on a pedestal and say Ezekiel's got The Word of the Lord: all you come over and hear Ezekiel. That was not how Israel, the Church at the time received him. I'm not talking about the Syrians and the Palestinians. I'm talking about the Church: God's chosen people, God's Elect. They didn't embrace Ezekiel and say Brother, you've got the Word of God, let's hear you. Because what he brought to them was contrary to their belief.

Do you realize that prophet after prophet brought something contrary to Israel's understanding because they were walking after their own heart, their own mind and understanding. So when you go set this forth before other denominations today, they don't necessarily want to understand another understanding because they have put God in an understanding. They put God in an idea. They put the Tabernacle in a box. And they've created other Tabernacles. That was the first thing Peter said when Moses and Elijah appeared on the mount. 'Let's make here three Tabernacles.' But no – only ONE House was going forth just like it did in the type. Only ONE HOUSE and all the ministry was to be of that One House. And that One House that it was to be of was Christ. Christ as a Son over His own House, whose House you are. For what purpose? Ephesians 4:15-18, "*But speaking the truth in love, may grow up into him in all things, which is the head, even Christ: 16 From 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. 17 This I say therefore, and testify in the Lord, that ye henceforth walk not as other Gentiles walk, in the vanity of their mind, 18 Having the understanding darkened, being alienated from the life of God through the ignorance that is in them, because of the blindness of their heart.” Paul is speaking to the Church saying don’t walk in your own mind like the rest of the world does: in the darkness, the blindness of your heart not seeing The Truth.

Do you think Paul didn’t deal with this with the Church? Look at his epistles. He tells them don’t walk in darkness: don’t walk in the vanity of your own mind, in your vain imagination, in your vain understanding, in your imagination of what the Gospel is saying. Because The Truth is in Jesus: that He’s taken away the one and He’s brought forth another. And you are joined together with Him: you’re brought forth in Him. That’s what Paul presented over and over again. He presents you “joined to the Lord”. And yet half of the Church or more doesn’t believe they are joined to the Lord. They believe that ‘one day I’m going to go be with Jesus’: not that I’m joined together with Him now; not that I’ve been baptized into His death, buried in His burial and raised in His resurrection. That’s being grounded in the faith and giving it to the saints: joined to the Lord. That’s the Gospel Paul was teaching. He wasn’t just teaching we must believe that our sins are forgiven. That is true, but Paul was presenting the Work of the Cross: what God had done. He was presenting that God had gotten Himself a people in Christ just like He desired: that the Church was the people of God, and that Christ dwelled in the Church. And that the very mind of the Lord was to be made known in the Church. God was to be unveiled.

How do you think you are going to know somebody unless you know their mind? I don’t know you unless I know your mind, unless I know your intentions – your heart. For years I’ve struggled with the difference between mind and heart. What’s the difference? The mind, the thought, the heart, the intent, the desire, the knowing of the soul and Spirit. And why? To bring the Light of Christ: to bring His mind, His intent, His purpose. That’s what it’s for – in us. That we might grow up into Him in all things. We are His Body, but if you don’t understand you’re His Body, how are you going to grow up into Him? If you don’t understand that’s the purpose, the intent and heart of God: that you grow up into Him – how are you? If you think the heart of

God is just for us to come to Church on Sunday morning and sing a few songs, how are you going to grow up into Him in all things?

Do you see why that's such a bad understanding? I'm not saying we're not to gather. We do gather on Sunday morning, but it's the idea of WHY we gather: it's the understanding of what we're gathering in. You don't come and gather in the understanding that I'm just going to Church. I'm a member of the Church which is His Body, and I'm coming to edify and be edified. I'm coming to know Him. I'm coming for a greater revealing of Him when we come together. That's why you come: that the Spirit may draw those that are lost into our midst so that they may be saved. It is that others may be reconciled to Him. You come in that understanding: in the understanding of edification. So it's not that we don't come: it's the understanding you come together in. Paul never said not to gather. Yes, don't forsake the gathering. They broke bread from house to house: The Bread of Life, The Bread which is Christ.

Sometimes people who have gotten into what they say is a 'deeper message' don't even want to gather any more because they don't see the point of it. But the point of it is I don't have it all: you don't have it all. Well, we do have it all since HE has it all, but the whole measure of Him hasn't been made known in my heart. It hasn't even though I think it has. But then I can get into this Word, and this Word can confound my mind because the full measure of Him is not made known. And I can't explain it all. That's why there's such a necessity of ministry: that we would function together and work together. There is a necessity of one feeding the other; of one washing the other with the Word: with the Water of the Word, with the understanding of the Word washing the other. There is a necessity of sharing the Word one to another. There is a necessity to pour out that which is in you and me in whatever measure. It may not always be in preaching because there's a measure of HIM in every part. It is necessary to pour out that which is in you into me: it is necessary for the building up, the edifying of the Body in itself: to know as we are known. That's the beauty of it. I love to share the Word, but I also love to hear the Word shared; where there is a pouring out from one to another.

Folks, He was already what He is. He had no need except that He desired a Body: except that He desired relationship. He had no need except He had a desire of increase, and that increase is by relationship. It wasn't just by creating a robot. We have to believe that we're in a relationship with God,

and God is in a relationship with us. The Bible talks about the fulness of Christ. Fulness means completion, what fills of what is filled, a fulfilling. I've begun to see here that not only are we in His fulness, His completion: we are His completion. Just like when God created the natural man and he placed all the animals before Adam. Adam looked around and he saw they all had a mate, but he found no mate for himself. He finds no relationship for himself. In this I see the Church. In this view here is God's relationship: here's where He has relationship. And He's brought (just as Eve was brought out of Adam) the Church right out of Himself in order to fill it up with Himself – in relationship. And here's where His joy is full – bringing many sons unto glory. There was the joy that was set before Him.

He bore the shame, He bore the Cross, He bore the death – for the joy! In relationship. And that's the identity you have as the Church, His Body. You have an identity. It's the Church, and that Church is joined, is married, is related as husband and wife, as Head and Body. That's how the scripture relates this. *"He that is joined to the Lord is one spirit."* (1 Corinthians 6:17) Just as the man was joined to the woman and they became one flesh. She took on the name of her husband. All that comes out of the order of the Lord. We take on His Name, losing our own just as the woman loses her name to be identified with Him, The Church. And that's how you identify with Him – The Church. You identify as His Church, His Bride, as His Body, His Temple, His House. All of these terms are the place of relationship.

"...that where I am, there ye may be also." (John 14:3) We are in the same place, but you're in a relationship. You can be in the same place physically and not be in "the same place". Everybody is trying to make that physical - where He is: but it's in relationship, in union. You can be sitting side by side and not be "in the same place" as someone else. He's dealing with a greater place, a greater understanding than what most people see. We know that. We've come to know we are the Church. We just need to express that. That is the identity that we are. Do you want to know what you are? People say 'find your identity in Christ'. Well, that's identity. You're the Church: you're His Body. That's HIM – that's who you are! But the Church has no identity but in Christ, no matter how much we say that. You find no purpose for the Church but IN CHRIST. And its purpose in meeting is in the very Life of Christ. Colossians 3:4, *"When Christ, who is our life, shall appear, then shall ye also appear with him in glory."* As that Life appears, we appear – joined, in union – as He appears. Until He appears we don't see that

joy, that oneness. “... *that they may be one...the glory that I had with thee have I given unto them...When Christ who is our Life appears...*” We – joined together – one – in union with Him. That’s the same thing: that they may be one – joined together, appear together, as One, as His Body. As He is, so are we.

You see this in many scriptures, and this really goes back to the type. He didn’t set forty different orders and forty different divisions in the midst of the people. He set One House and they all related to that One. Everyone of the many (Israel is my Son – ONE); everyone – the many related back to the One. God brought One House, One understanding. There are different functions of that, but He brought One. That’s what Paul said in Colossians 2:16-17, “*Let no man therefore judge you in meat, or in drink, or in respect of an holyday, or of the new moon, or of the sabbath days: 17 Which are a shadow of things to come; but the body is of Christ.*” We’re no longer observing days and times. We’re observing HIM!

AMEN