

ONE BODY

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IN THE "CHOSEN" SERIES:

September 27: *You Are Chosen*

October 11: *One Body*

October 25: *Roles & Submission*

October 4: *Dead to Life*

October 18: *Transformed*

November 1: *Stand Firm*

Five Truths:

Ephesians 3:3-6 (NLT) (3) As I briefly wrote earlier, God himself revealed his mysterious plan to me. (4) As you read what I have written, you will understand my insight into this plan regarding Christ. (5) God did not reveal it to previous generations, but now by his Spirit he has revealed it to his holy apostles and prophets. (6) And this is God's plan: Both Gentiles and Jews who believe the Good News share equally in the riches inherited by God's children. Both are part of the same body, and both enjoy the promise of blessings because they belong to Christ Jesus.

1) The Church is _____ every follower of Jesus into one body.

Ephesians 3:10-11 (NLT) (10) God's purpose in all this was to use the church to display his wisdom in its rich variety to all the unseen rulers and authorities in the heavenly places. (11) This was his eternal plan, which he carried out through Christ Jesus our Lord.

Ephesians 3:12 (NLT) (12) Because of Christ and our faith in him, we can now come boldly and confidently into God's presence.

Hebrews 4:14-16 (NLT) (14) So then, since we have a great High Priest who has entered heaven, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold firmly to what we believe. (15) This High Priest of ours understands our weaknesses, for he faced all of the same testings we do, yet he did not sin. (16) So let us come boldly to the throne of our gracious God. There we will receive his mercy, and we will find grace to help us when we need it most.

2) God is able to do _____ than we can imagine.

Ephesians 3:16-19 (NLT) (16) I pray that from his glorious, unlimited resources he will empower you with inner strength through his Spirit. (17) Then Christ will make his home in your hearts as you trust in him. Your roots will grow down into God's love and keep you strong. (18) And may you have the power to understand, as all God's people should, how wide, how long, how high, and how deep his love is. (19) May you experience the love of Christ, though it is too great to understand fully. Then you will be made complete with all the fullness of life and power that comes from God.

Ephesians 3:20-21 (NLT) (20) Now all glory to God, who is able, through his mighty power at work within us, to accomplish infinitely more than we might ask or think. (21) Glory to him in the church and in Christ Jesus through all generations forever and ever! Amen.

3) God calls each of us to _____ toward one another.

Ephesians 4:1-6 (NLT) (1) Therefore I, a prisoner for serving the Lord, beg you to lead a life worthy of your calling, for you have been called by God. (2) Always be humble and gentle. Be patient with each other, making allowance for each other's faults because of your love. (3) Make every effort to keep yourselves united in the Spirit, binding yourselves together with peace. (4) For there is one body and one Spirit, just as you have been called to one glorious hope for the future. (5) There is one Lord, one faith, one baptism, (6) one God and Father of all, who is over all, in all, and living through all.

4) God wants us to _____ He has given us to build up the Church.

Ephesians 4:7 (NLT) (7) However, he has given each one of us a special gift through the generosity of Christ.

1 Peter 4:10 (NLT) (10) God has given each of you a gift from his great variety of spiritual gifts. Use them well to serve one another.

Ephesians 4:16 (NLT) (16) He makes the whole body fit together perfectly. As each part does its own special work, it helps the other parts grow, so that the whole body is healthy and growing and full of love.

5) God's desire is for us to _____ .

Ephesians 4:11-15 (NLT) (11) Now these are the gifts Christ gave to the church: the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, and the pastors and teachers. (12) Their responsibility is to equip God's people to do his work and build up the church, the body of Christ. (13) This will continue until we all come to such unity in our faith and knowledge of God's Son that we will be mature in the Lord, measuring up to the full and complete standard of Christ. (14) Then we will no longer be immature like children. We won't be tossed and blown about by every wind of new teaching. We will not be influenced when people try to trick us with lies so clever they sound like the truth. (15) Instead, we will speak the truth in love, growing in every way more and more like Christ, who is the head of his body, the church.

THE CHURCH IS WHERE GOD GROWS US INTO MATURITY.

Hebrews 10:24-25 (NLT) (24) Let us think of ways to motivate one another to acts of love and good works. (25) And let us not neglect our meeting together, as some people do, but encourage one another, especially now that the day of his return is drawing near.

Two Signs of Spiritual Maturity:

a) We _____ and are not tossed around.

Ephesians 4:14 (NLT) (14) Then we will no longer be immature like children. We won't be tossed and blown about by every wind of new teaching. We will not be influenced when people try to trick us with lies so clever they sound like the truth.

2 Timothy 4:3-4 (NLT) (3) For a time is coming when people will no longer listen to sound and wholesome teaching. They will follow their own desires and will look for teachers who will tell them whatever their itching ears want to hear. (4) They will reject the truth and chase after myths.

TRUTH IS FOUND IN THE BIBLE.

b) We _____.

Ephesians 4:15 (NLT) (15) Instead, we will speak the truth in love, growing in every way more and more like Christ, who is the head of his body, the church.

ARE YOU GROWING INTO MATURITY?

For more information about what it means to begin a relationship with Jesus or what to do after making a decision to follow Him, stop at Guest Central in the lobby following the service, email us at info@otterbeinchurch.org, or call the church office at 717.762.7147 to set up an appointment. You may also learn more about what it means to follow Jesus and/or request materials and find additional information to help you on your spiritual journey by clicking "**Next Steps > Jesus**" on our website at www.otterbeinchurch.org.