

What is the Difference Between the Body of Christ and the Wife of the Lamb?

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WHAT IS THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN THE BODY OF CHRIST AND THE WIFE OF THE LAMB?

Today I want to take a thought and title it, What is the Difference Between the Body of Christ and the Wife of the Lamb? This thought is not something that is new, but there will be some new things that we will bring out today in this message. The body of Christ has been a phrase that we have used through time, and Paul is the first one that said it; for the body of Christ has existed in one form or another from Paul's day up until this present time. But there is one thing that had never been preached nor highlighted very much as far as the body of Christ was concerned, and that is the Wife of the Lamb. And the Wife of the Lamb is the only people that is bone of His bones and flesh of His flesh who is walking in glorification having received the message of glorified flesh and bones.

Notice again, the body of Christ has been spoken of in different forms up until this present time. And as we have gotten to where we are now, and as the marriage has taken place, then the phrase the body of Christ is used with less preeminence and the Wife of the Lamb has come to the forefront. Recently I preached the message, Jesus' Main Focus (Emphasis) Is Now On His Christ Wife, which was put into book form, and it shows that the emphasis is now on the Wife of the Lamb. So the Christ Wife of the Lamb is the final form that the body of Christ has developed into; and in this full stature, we are dressed in fine linen, clean and white, which is the righteousness of saints that He has

given to us. (Revelation 19:7-8) And this differentiates us from all the other saints of God that are dressed in white robes. Yes, white robes is righteousness, but it is righteousness that is showing a different position in God's family than that of fine linen which is worn by the Wife of the Lamb. So this gives us revelational understanding of how precious the Wife of the Lamb is, thus showing there is a body of people that have become (and are now walking) in glorified flesh and bones. And only the Wife of the Lamb is identified as His glorified flesh and bones, showing the body of Christ has stepped forth in this final victory.

Up until Revelation, Chapter 10, was revealed, we would always speak of the body of Christ as a spiritual or mystical body, which was correct because the message for the marriage had not been given. But now since the message for the marriage has been given, we speak of the body of Christ as the Wife of the Lamb. Many preachers take Paul's message and use it as though it was to create the Wife of the Lamb, when in fact Paul's message was for creating the virgin who would become the Wife after Christ Jesus came back to this earth for the marriage. And even now, different churches will take that message and try to apply it to themselves thinking they are the Wife of the Lamb, clothed in fine linen, clean and white; for they do not realize the true Wife of the Lamb is no longer just in the spiritual realm, but we are in a physical spiritual realm, and that is glorification. That is why we do not speak of the body of Christ now as though it is just a spiritual body, but we speak of it as it has taken on glorified flesh and bones, which is the Wife of the Lamb.

The body of Christ was here in the days of Paul, for he said, "By one Spirit ye are baptized into the body of Christ." And the difference here is there was no mention. of taking on glorified flesh and bones. The fact is, he mentioned the marriage in 2 Corinthians 11:2-3, but when he mentioned it, he mentioned presenting the virgin to one Husband. Then immediately after that, we see the devil had already begun to come around with his deception. And Paul said unto them, "I fear lest as the serpent beguiled Eve, so your minds should be corrupted from the simplicity that is in Christ." So things were already happening that brought to his mind what happened in the garden with Eve, which confirmed our thought all along that Genesis is the seed chapter, and everything that happens presently has its origin in Genesis. That is why Paul referred back to Genesis in the Book of Ephesians 5:30-32 and brought in the same words that Adam said about Eve, because Paul could not say it better; for what Adam said was the Word of God, and God had in His mind a Wife for His Son Jesus all along, just as He created a wife for His natural son Adam (who was created from the dust of the earth). So as He created a wife for Adam, He created a Wife for His Son who was born of the Word of God, who was part of the Word from the very beginning. And as His Wife (the Wife of the Lamb), we have become part of the Godhead, clothed in fine linen, clean and white. means there is absolutely nothing against us at all. We have the same righteousness that our Lord Jesus Christ has, which is the same righteousness that God has, and that is the one righteousness, and it is for this special part of God's family. So these are the things that we are dealing with here. Now let us have a Word of prayer.

Heavenly Father, thank you for all the good things that you are doing. Lord, that scripture is so wonderful that says, "He daily loadeth us with benefits." And, Lord, truly we are daily loaded with benefits, healing and deliverance of all kinds, all provided for us. It is just for the taking, just for the believing of it, for the claiming of it, for it is your own good pleasure. Lord, you said that it was your own good pleasure to give good gifts to them that love you. And we thank you for it. Bless the Word today; may it accomplish that which you have ordained in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ. Amen.

Today we are going to be reading in the Book of 1 Corinthians, Chapter 12, and I want you to notice carefully as we read, for I want to show how these things concerning the body of Christ started way back there in Paul's day and that it is not something that we just stumbled into. No, it was already in the making and was shown as the spiritual body of Christ that Paul's espousal message produced. But the espoused virgin fell away from the original Word that was spoken by Paul and did not go into the marriage, and the virgin was put under a survival law. It was just exactly like what happened in the Garden of Eden with Adam and Eve, for they fell from God's original Word and thereafter had to be put under a survival law, as did all of God's people throughout the Old Testament. And they spiritually survived by offering a lamb as a sacrifice. So, as we said, in the New Testament the virgin that Paul had espoused to the glorified Jesus Christ fell as Eve did. Notice, the virgin fell, not the Wife. The Wife did not fall, but the virgin fell and Paul had to come forth with a law for her survival. So he put the virgin under that survival law and she stayed under it throughout the seven church ages until God restored her back to what Paul had. Then at the fulfillment of the church ages, timewise this brought us to Revelation, Chapter 10, and Christ Jesus bringing to this earth the little book and telling us to take it and eat it up, which we did. And then we laid our cross down and put on our crown of glory in the marriage of the Lamb.

Now all that we have come through up to this time and all the natural animal sacrifice was pointing to the one Lamb, and that was and is the Lord Jesus Christ. Again, we see that the virgin that Paul introduced did basically the same thing that Eve did, and they had to go under a survival law, which called for such things as taking communion, thus showing they were covered by the blood, for it pointed back to Calvary and the sacrifice that the Lord Jesus Christ made there.

A few years back, there was a message that I preached where the Lord brought forth such a great revelation—We Are Not Carrying a Cross, but We Are Wearing a Crown of Glory. And then by the leadership of the Lord, I recently preached a furtherance of that message called, It is finished. And in that particular message, we see concerning the cross that the Wife is not constantly reminding Jesus that He died for us, nor do we want to carry a cross to show that we believe He died for us. No, that is not the commandment given to us, that is not the instruction to the Wife of the Lamb, but the commandment to the Wife is to 'rejoice and be glad and give honor to Him for the marriage of the Lamb is come; for the Wife hath made Herself ready, and it was given to Her to be arrayed in fine linen, clean and white.' Now that has put us in a category all our own—the Wife of the Lamb, glorified flesh and bones.

The Wife is so different from religion. We are so different from those that started out claiming to be the body of Christ but failed to move on with the revelation of the Word. And although they hear something good and they want to get in it and be part of it, they cannot get in it nor be part of it unless they were part of it before the world was in God's mind and in God's plan. And if you were that before the world was, then you cannot get out of it! We were there, and we are the Wife, and we are rejoicing and being exceedingly glad. We are not carrying a cross, but we are wearing a crown of glory! Here I am speaking strictly to the Wife of the Lamb. So for the Wife to emphasize the cross and Jesus Christ dying, that would be out of sync to what is happening now, for He said to rejoice and be exceedingly glad, for the marriage has taken place and we are clothed in fine linen, clean and white. And now we are bone of His bones and flesh of His flesh. See, to emphasize the cross and Jesus Christ dying is out of character for us; for as the Wife of the Lamb, we are rejoicing and are holding our head up high. We have the light of the Lord showing forth from our face, and we are wearing our crown of glory with pride and are rejoicing in it as we are glorifying Him; for we have already come through the journey of carrying our cross and being under that survival law. The church world though is still going that way; they are still going through a survival law, and they will never get deliverance for the rapture. They will go through the tribulation period, and they will do what?-wash their fine linen and make it white in the blood of the Lamb? No, they will wash their robes and make them white in the blood of the Lamb. The robes are soaked in blood because they are of that part of the plan of God. (Revelation, Chapter 7)

In the days of Paul, of all the preachers, and of all the apostles, he was the one that stood outside the ranks of the twelve apostles and said, "I am the apostle to the Gentiles," because the twelve apostles that followed Jesus Christ in His earthly ministry were to the nation of Israel, while Paul was ordained an apostle to another people. And I know preachers today that say Paul was the twelfth apostle. No, he was of an entirely different breed of Christianity, for he is part of the Wife of the Lamb who is an entirely different breed of Christianity, for we are a new order of saints. So we are a people that are entirely different from anything else in the world today and anything that has ever been. And there will never be another group of saints called the Wife of the Lamb dressed in fine linen, clean and white, who is His very own glorified flesh and bones.

As said earlier, the body of Christ started back in the days of Paul and worked its way through the church ages. During the church ages the members of the body of Christ went to the ground, but their spirits (souls) went up into paradise. And Paul saw them when he was caught up into paradise, and he wrote about them in 2 Corinthians 5:1. But when Christ Jesus came in the fullness of His Spirit shown in Revelation, Chapter 10, which was the second leg of His coming, He brought all those souls back to earth with Him, which shows the end of the seven church ages. It is confirmed in 1 Thessalonians 4:14 that God sent these souls down to earth with Christ Jesus, which took place in Revelation, Chapter 10. So why were they brought? The answer is because there is a message of glorified flesh and bones here that does not have any death in it, and the part of the Wife that did not go to the grave is here, and we all have to be together to be caught up to meet the Lord in the air. Therefore, while our bodies are being translated into glorified flesh and bones by a message, their spirits (souls) have been taking on this Word also, giving these souls their glorified flesh and bones—Word body. And now we are here together in this message of rapture.

We see the world falling apart, and things will go on as they are going in the worldly realm until it winds up in the 70th Week of Daniel and the tribulation. And during that time, many of the tribulation saints will give their lives in their stand for the gospel that will be preached to them. They are not the Wife of the Lamb. They are not bone of His bones and flesh of His flesh. They are not wearing a crown of glory; they are carrying a cross. But for us, the Wife of the Lamb, our expression is 'we are wearing a crown of glory and not carrying a cross.'

Notice, there was a changeover for us, the Wife of Lamb, and for us only. Yes, the others carry their cross, but we rejoice and thank Him for our crown of glory. And our conversation to Him is not, "Lord Jesus, I know you died; I know you suffered; I know you were beaten." But we are saying, "Lord Jesus, we love you, and one hundred hearts would not be enough to contain all our love for you. We praise you! We are not walking around with our head down, but we are walking proudly down this road of eternal life in this glorified body wearing our crown of glory. And we are not reminding you about the suffering you went through on Calvary. And we know about the Christianity in the worldly realm, yes, they are clinging to the cross, they are still doing the communion which means, 'Lord Jesus, I remember you died for me and how you suffered. I remember how you cried,' but, Lord, you do not want your Wife telling you that." See, the Lord wants His Wife to rejoice with His Wife, and shout with His Wife, and sing to His Wife. And we do not want to stop His song. We are the Wife of the Lamb, and we are a happy people, a glorious people, a people not going around long-faced, and a people that is not crying about someone that is lost, because He is going to get every one of His, and it will be as He ordained from the foundation of the world. But the Wife of the Lamb in this moment of the twinkling of an eye has taken on glorified flesh and bones, for our flesh and bones has become one with the glorified flesh and bones of our Lord, Husband, and King, Jesus Christ.

When Jesus Christ met the two disciples on their way to Emmaus. He came as a man to talk with them and encourage them, to tell them not to be so sad, but to rejoice! And that is what the ministry of the Wife of the Lamb is doing; for we are saying to rejoice in our Husband, for we are no longer carrying a cross, but we are wearing a crown of glory! And there is no doubt in our minds about this. Yes, the enemy may try to put a doubt in our mind by accusing us, saying that we have done this or that, or saying that we should be repentant, and that we should be trying to tell people about the cross. There are people to do that, and it is the will of God for them, and they have their place. But we have our place, and we are rejoicing in the glory of God, so we leave the rest of it in the hands of God. God has made us part of the Godhead, for He told us in Revelation, Chapter 22, that She brings forth Her fruit. That is what we are doing, bringing forth our fruit and wearing a crown of glory, rejoicing and praising the Lord! We know that we have His very own righteousness, for we are clothed in fine linen, clean and white, which is the righteousness of saints that has come straight from God.

Now as promised earlier, let us read in 1 Corinthians, Chapter 12, starting with Verse 12. This is scripture, the written Word, but we must have the Spirit of the Word to make it live. We can read what the Lord Jesus Christ was saying in Paul's day, but He is still speaking something today. The scripture is a very good foundation which shows us how it all started. But the scripture does not have flesh and bones on it as we have. And those saints that are members of the Wife of the Lamb that died in their natural bodies have now come forth and have taken on glorified flesh and bones. So here it says, "For as the body is one, and hath many members, and all the members of that one body, being many, are one body: so also is Christ." Notice, it does not say, "so also is Jesus." See, there has to be the body of Jesus that contains the bulk of the masculine attributes. But there has to be His Wife which contains the bulk of the feminine attributes. So that is when the flesh and bones come into play. And again, just like God created Eve from the rib that came from Adam, He created the Wife of the Lamb by taking a rib from our glorified Jesus Christ.

God saw that Adam was lonely, and He made a promise to create him a helpmeet, for He said, "It is not good for man to be alone, I will make Him a helpmeet." Did He immediately do it? No, He did not fulfill it right then. Instead, God started creating from out of the ground every beast of the field and every fowl of the air, and He brought them to Adam to see what He would call them. And no doubt it must have taken quite a period of time for Adam to name everything. And even after all of this, Adam was still lonely, and he wanted a helpmeet. He saw everything else had a mate, for there were male and female of all that God had created. But for Adam there was not a helpmeet.

He got to thinking, "Where is my mate? Where is my counterpart?" (But the feminine attributes for Eve was in Adam all the time.) That is when God put Adam to sleep and took a rib and the feminine attributes from him and created a body for Eve. She was created from the same material that Adam was created from, but directly from Adam. And we the Christ Wife were created from the same material as our Lord Jesus Christ, a body made directly from His glorified body.

So now we know that we were in our Lord Jesus Christ from the time Christ came into Him. We were in Him when He walked here on earth living His life as He carried out the work that God called Him to do. We, the feminine part of Christ, were in Jesus Christ all that time because we were part of that special part of the Word that He was made from; but we the Wife were not yet manifested. The Wife was there as Jesus Christ healed the sick and raised the dead, but those feminine attributes laid dormant. So He did all these other things before God actually took a rib and began the creation of a Wife in flesh and bones for His Son.

Again, just like with Adam, there was a long period of time before God created a Wife for Jesus Christ; for there had to be certain things done. He had to go to Israel first, which is shown in Romans 15:8. So He went to His own, but His own received Him not, but to those that did receive Him, He gave them power to become sons of God. But we see there was something in Him; it was that feminine nature, those feminine attributes that were in the Christ that came into Jesus. And from time to time, those feminine attributes would come forth; and we can see that John must have been influenced by those feminine

attributes, for he laid his head on the bosom of Jesus Christ. No, John was not part of the Wife, but he was being affected by those feminine attributes which were in Jesus the Christ. (John 13:23)

So in God's ordained plan, the time came when it was no longer good for our Lord Jesus Christ to be alone, and God took out a rib and those feminine attributes and began the creation of a Wife for His Son, which began with Paul's message creating the virgin. And then the marriage took place when Christ Jesus came back in Revelation, Chapter 10. And once the marriage took place, we became bone of His bones and flesh of His flesh. And by what John wrote about us in Revelation 19:7-8, our Lord, Husband, and King is very happy with His lovely Wife.

The virgin, which Paul had espoused to the glorified Jesus Christ by his gospel, fell before she became bone of His bones and flesh of His flesh. But she was restored back to what Paul had after the church ages ran their course, and She has now become Wife by the last trump of God message and is part of Him, bone of His bones, flesh of His flesh, and mind of His mind. Therefore, we are walking around here glorified in fine linen, clean and white, and the praise of God is flowing forth from our mouth. And the faith of the Son of God and faith of Christ the Wife have come together—the masculine faith and the feminine faith have married together, and we have a perfect faith, and we believe. That is why we cannot be tossed to and fro and carried about with every wind of doctrine which is in the religious realm. It does not have any effect on us because we are walking in glorification rejoicing every step of the way.

So Paul was telling the virgin in Verse 13, "For by one Spirit are we all baptized into one body, whether we be Jews or Gentiles, whether we be bond or free; and have been all made to drink into one Spirit." Then in Verse 27 it says, "Now ye are the body of Christ, and members in particular." This was spoken in reality, but it also had a prophetic end to it. Because here, it never did move from just being the spiritual body of Christ. And although the body did not take on glorified flesh and bones at the time it was spoken, it would come to pass, but not in Paul's day. But now that Spirit has solidified in the body of Christ, and now we are glorified flesh and bones, and not just spirits; for we are real people that have become one with the real Jesus Christ as we are married to Him. And that makes all the difference in the world.

Now what is the difference between the body of Christ and the Wife of the Lamb? Well, the body of Christ has existed in different forms all the way through time. Even in the Dark Ages, the body of Christ was there in some degree and throughout all the seven church ages as each messenger brought a Word; and then the members died and went to the ground as did the messenger. But their spirit, their soul, was brought back to earth, as 1 Thessalonians 4:14 shows, to take on a glorified body! As mentioned earlier, Paul saw these souls, for he said in 2 Corinthians 5:1, "For we know that if our earthly house of this tabernacle were dissolved, we have a building of God, an house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens." But now their spirits have taken on glorified flesh and bones by this message that started back there and came all the way through. For now that the fullness of Christ Jesus came in Revelation, Chapter 10, the feminine part is now manifested and has come into glorified flesh and bones, which is the Wife of the Lamb.

So what I am speaking is the Word. Yes, we have scripture of what our Lord Jesus Christ said, and we believe the scripture. But how about what our Lord Jesus Christ is saying today, which is spoken Word? If we do not have the spoken Word along with the scripture, it is not complete. Here, I want to tell about a dream I had some time back. In the dream, I walked into a house and was standing there. And a man walked up to me and handed me an envelope and said to me, "This was left for you." And then he turned and walked away. So I looked at it, and it had my name, 'Ben Howard,' written on it. Then I opened it up and took out the letter that was inside. But the letter was a clean white sheet of paper; there was nothing written on it. This last trump of God, the message of glorified flesh and bones, is that clean white sheet of paper that we are writing on. It makes me rejoice! It is that clean white sheet of paper we are writing on, and it is spoken Word that has power! And for us that are wearing a crown of glory and are dressed in fine linen, clean and white, it goes right to our heart, and we say, "I am part of this; this is what I am. I am living for my Lord, Husband, and King and I have let the world and religion go on by."

So we are members of His body, of His flesh and of His bones. (Ephesians 5:30-31) Now that is different from Paul's day because he said, "By one Spirit, ye are baptized into the body of Christ." But notice, that was only the spiritual body of Christ in espousal. But I say unto you, "By this revelational message, the body of Christ has taken on the glorified flesh and bones of the Lord Jesus Christ, as we were baptized into marriage by a Word message that

has put glorified flesh and bones on us, for the second benefit has come!"

Notice, most of Paul's writings were not quoting scripture from others (although he made reference to scriptures from time to time of what God has done), but he just spoke the Word, saying, "I say unto you." They were Gentiles and Jews together, a new group that he had called out and espoused to the glorified Jesus Christ. And he gave brand new Word that had never been written before nor spoken before. And on a clean white sheet of paper, it became written Word. And in this moment of the twinkling of an eye, it is the same thing.

We are the Wife of the Lamb and we are a special group. And to carry a cross is not for us, the Wife. We are not carrying a cross, but we are wearing a crown of glory on our head in glorified flesh and bones.

O' my Father, take and bless this message we pray, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ. Amen.

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