

# The Body of Christ: Unity and Examples

This presentation explores the concept of the Body of Christ, focusing on its unity and providing examples from the book of Acts. We will examine the reasons for unity, its foundation in Christ's work, and how it manifests practically in the assembly.



By Michael Hardt





# The Reason for Unity

## God is One

- God is love
- God is light
- God is “one” (1 Tim. 2:5)  
Tim. 2:5)

## Foundation in Christ's Work

The unity of the Body of Christ is **founded on the work of Christ.**

## Scriptural Support

Various scriptures, including passages from Matthew, John, John, and Paul's letters, provide evidence and explanation for explanation for this unity based on Christ's work.





# Unity in Matthew's Gospel

## 1 The Precious Pearl

Matthew 13:45, 46 presents the concept of ONE precious pearl, symbolizing the unity of the assembly.

# Unity in John's Gospel

2 John 10:11.15.16

Joh 10:11 I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd **lays down his life for the sheep:**

Joh 10:15 ... **and I lay down my life for the sheep. sheep.**

Joh 10:16 And I have other sheep which are not of not of this fold: those also I must bring, and they shall they shall hear my voice; and there shall be **one flock, flock, one shepherd.**





# Unity in John's Gospel

## 3 John 11:50-52

John 11:52 ... prophesied that Jesus was going **to die to die** for the nation;

John 11:52 ... and not for the nation only, but that he that he should also **gather together into one the the children of God who were scattered abroad. abroad.**








# Unity in Paul's Teachings: Ephesians

4

Eph. 2:15, 16

... having annulled the enmity in his flesh, the law of commandments in ordinances, that he might **form** might **form the two in himself into one new man**, making peace; and might reconcile both in **one body** to God **by the cross**, having by it slain the enmity.



# The Birthday of the Body of Christ

1

Promise

Acts 1:5 records Jesus' promise of the Holy Spirit.

2

Fulfilment

Acts 2:1 describes the day of Pentecost when the Holy Spirit came.

3

Result

1 Cor. 12:13 explains that by one Spirit we are all baptised into one body.



# Paul's Calling

1

Hint from Paul's Calling

"I am Jesus whom thou persecutes" (Acts 9:5).

This sentence indicates the intimate connection between Christ and His church.





# Paul's Teaching on the Body of Christ: Ephesians

2

Eph. 3:3.5.6

the **mystery** has been made known to me ...

... which in other generations has not been made known to the sons of men, as it has now been revealed to his holy apostles and prophets in the power of the Spirit, that they who are of the nations should be joint heirs, and **a joint body**, and joint partakers of his promise in Christ Jesus by the glad tidings.

# Paul's Teaching: 1 Corinthians

3

1 Corinthians 10:16.17

... **The bread which we break**, is it not the communion  
communion of the **body of the Christ**?

Because **we, being many, are one loaf**, one body; for  
body; for we all **partake** of that one loaf.





# Paul's Teaching: 1 Corinthians

## 4 1 Corinthians 12:12-14

For even as **the body is one** and has **many members**, but all the members of members of the body, being many, are one body, so also is the Christ. Christ.

For also in the power of one Spirit \*we\* have all been **baptised into one one body**, whether Jews or Greeks, whether bondmen or free, and have all have all been given to drink of one Spirit.

For also **the body is not one member but many**.



# Paul's Teaching: Romans

## 5 Romans 12:5

Thus we, being many, are **one body** in Christ, and each one **members one of the other**.

### Focus

Romans focuses on practical unity, emphasising the emphasising the **interdependence** of believers.





# Paul's Teaching: Colossians

6

Colossians

Colossians 2:19 states:

"**the Head**, from which all the body by joints and bands  
bands having nourishment ministered,  
and **knit together**,  
increaseth with the increase of God"





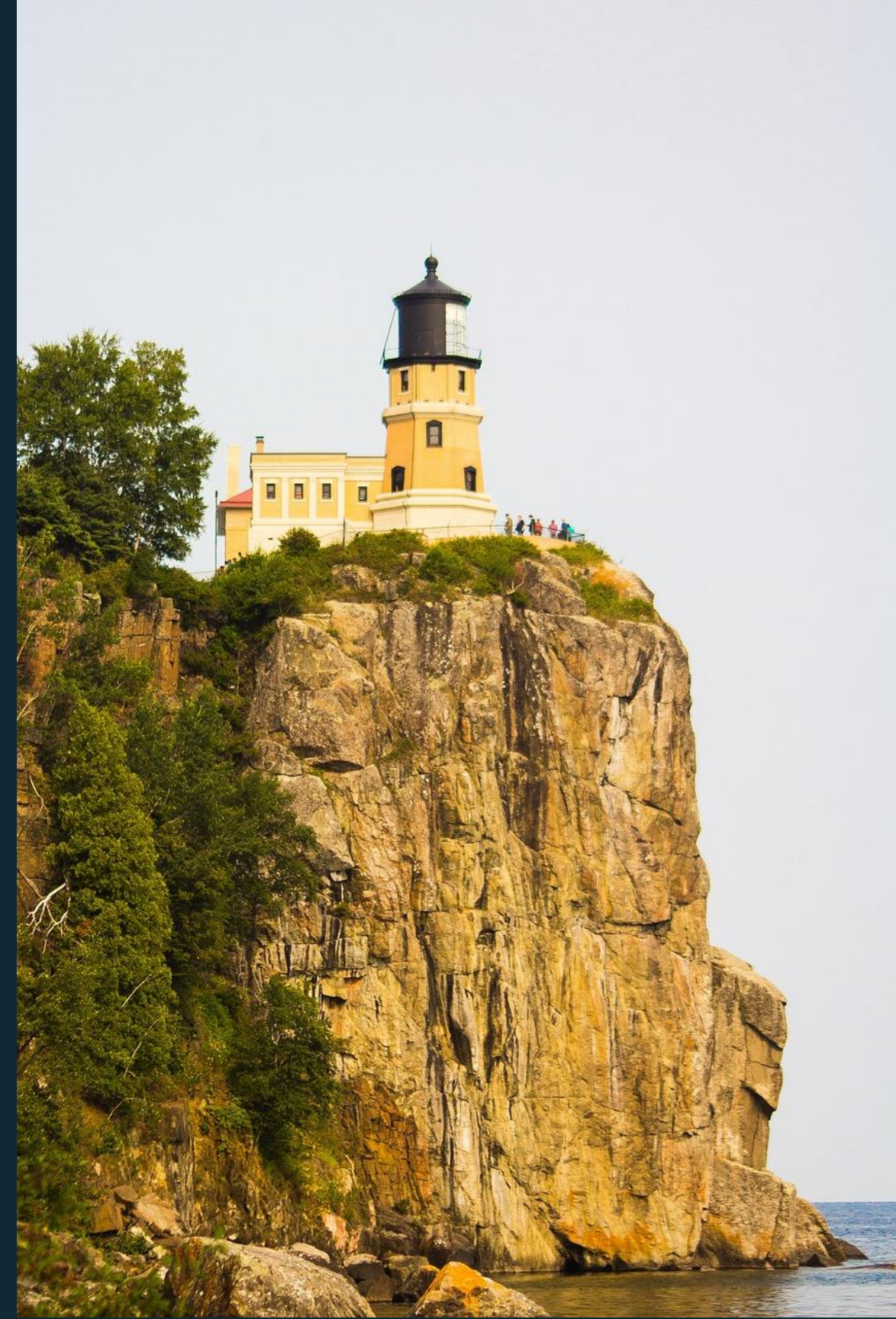
# Paul's Teaching: Timothy

7

1 and 2 Timothy

These letters present the assembly as the **house of God**, emphasising

- **order** and
- **separation from evil associations.**





A tropical beach scene at sunset. In the foreground, a large, iridescent pearl is nestled inside an open oyster shell, which is placed on a piece of weathered driftwood. The background shows a sandy beach, turquoise water, a small boat, and a wooden structure on stilts in the distance. The sun is low on the horizon, creating a warm, golden glow.

# The Unity of the body of Christ

## Examples in the book of Acts





## Examples in Acts: Unity in the Early Church

1

### Acts 4:32

"And the multitude of them that believed were **of one heart and of one soul**"

2

### Acts 6:1

"And in those days, when the number of the disciples was multiplied, there arose a murmuring of the **Grecians** against the **Hebrews**..."

3

### Acts 8:14-15

"Now when the apostles which were at Jerusalem heard that Samaria had received the word of God, of God, they sent unto them Peter and John: Who, when they were come down, **prayed for them, that them, that they might receive the Holy Ghost.**"





## Examples in Acts: Growth and Expansion – in Unity

4

Acts 9:31

"Then had **the churches** rest **throughout all Judaea and Galilee and Samaria**, and were edified; and walking edified; and walking in the fear of the Lord, and in the comfort of the Holy Ghost, were multiplied."





# Examples in Acts: Inclusion of Gentiles

5

Acts 10:44-47

"While Peter yet spake these words, the Holy Ghost fell on all them which heard the word.

And **they of the circumcision which believed were astonished**, as many as came with Peter, because that **on the Gentiles also was poured out the gift of the Holy Ghost**.

For they heard them speak with tongues, and magnify God.

Then answered Peter, Can any man forbid water, that these should not be baptized, **which have received the Holy Ghost as well as we?**"



# Examples in Acts 11: Leadership and Support

Acts 10:44-47

6



Barnabas

Barnabas went to Antioch.

7



Paul

Barnabas solicited the help of the Apostle Apostle Paul.

8



Prophets

Prophets came down from Jerusalem to Antioch.

9



Financial Support

The believers in Antioch sent financial support support for believers in Jerusalem.

# Examples in Acts: Resolving Doctrinal Differences

## 10 Acts 15

This chapter explains the difficulties that arose when false doctrine was presented in Antioch.

It explains how this issue was resolved:

- Not by “agreeing to disagree”
- Not by claiming “local autonomy”
- But by reviewing the matter together and settling it in the light of Scripture.





# Acts 15

Act 15:28 For it seemed good to the Holy Ghost, and to us, to lay us, to lay upon you no greater burden than these necessary things;

...

Act 15:30 So when they were dismissed, they came to Antioch: Antioch: and when they had gathered the multitude together, together, they delivered the epistle:

Act 15:31 Which when they had read, **they rejoiced** for the the consolation.



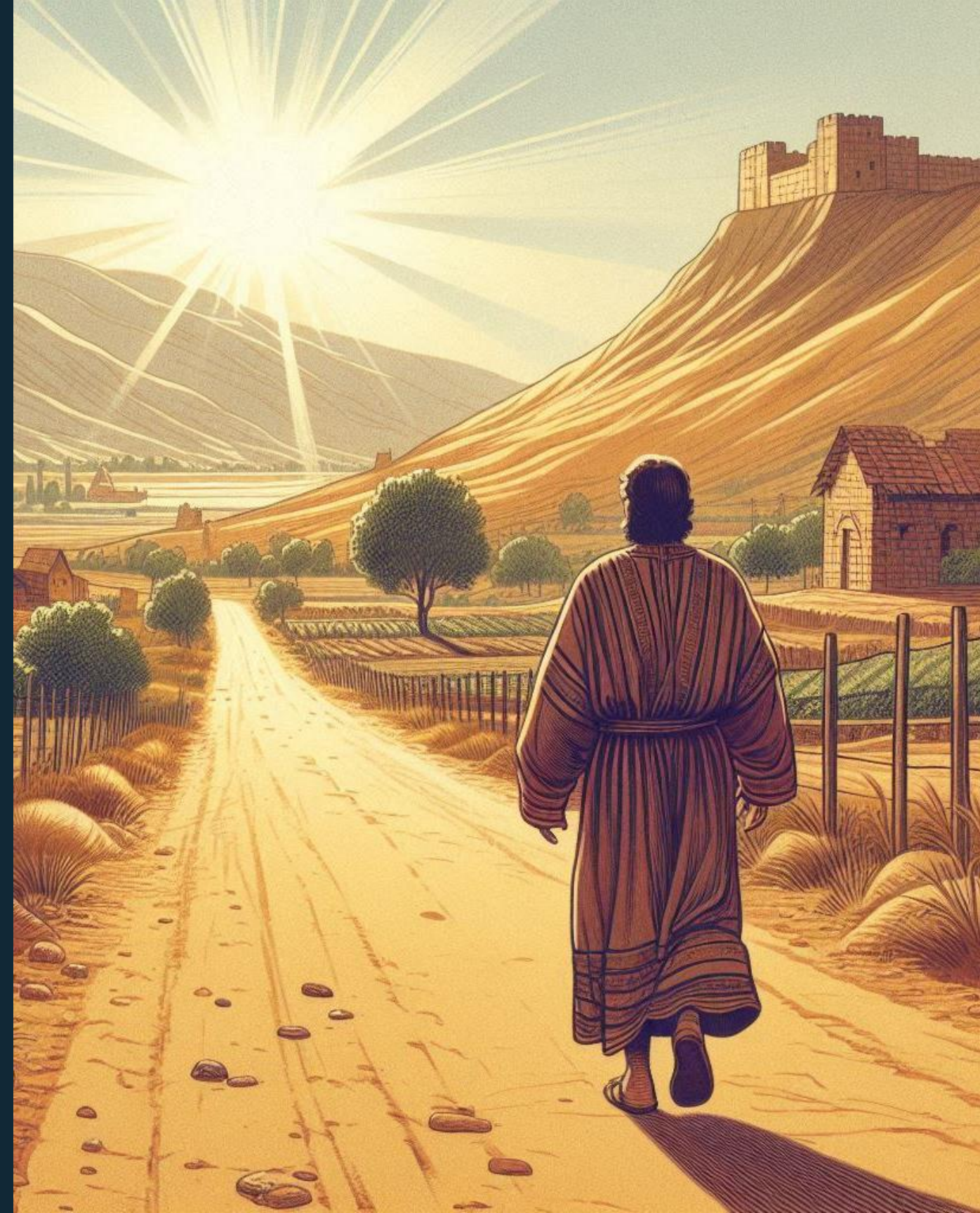


# Examples in Acts: Resolving Doctrinal Differences

11

2 Cor. 2:10

To whom ye forgive any thing, I forgive also.





# Concluding remarks

- The unity of the body of Christ is founded on His death on the cross.
- Various NT writers emphasised this unity.
- Paul gave the teaching on the unity of the body of Christ.
- Even before this teaching was given formally, it was observed and reflected by early Christian practice.
- Assemblies should move and act in harmony and in mutual recognition.



