

In Christ in the Body of Christ

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Intro:

1. To be in Christ is to be in His body, the Church. If God has always seen us in Christ, then He has always seen us in the Body of Christ.

The biblical context of the Church

1. Trinity, 2. Imago Dei, 3. Israel, 4. Jesus and the 12, plus disciples, 5. Crucifixion, Resurrection and Ascension, 6. The Church: Pentecost, the Apostles and the congregations (Scripture takes the place of the Apostles teaching in the present Church)

Key biblical word and metaphors for the Church

1. The Assembly (ekkleisia)
2. (20 plus) Body of Christ, Temple of the Holy Spirit, People of God, Family , Community or One another Fellowship

2 Biblical Distinctions

1. Universal, vs regional and local
2. Visible, seen by men and Invisible, seen only by God, the true Church

Biblical Marks of a Visible Church

1. Biblical Doctrine (centered in the Gospel)
2. Biblical celebration of the sacraments of the Gospel (Baptism and the Lord's Supper)
3. Ecclesiastical discipline
4. Holy Life, affirming biblical ethical standards
5. A mixed body of believers and non-believers until Second Coming of Christ
6. Each visible congregation is, in principle, united spiritually to all other visible congregations.

The three Chief activities of the Church

1. Corporate Worship
2. Family life growing in Christ-likeness
3. Service to the world (evangelism, global missions, works of mercy)

The Ministry of the Church

1. The ministry of all believers
2. The ordained Ministry