

The past 2000 years has been called the dispensation of Grace (Ephesians 3:2) and started with Paul and will continue until the future Rapture, (upward call to meet Jesus and go to Heaven - 1Thessalonians 4:17) and this was a secret plan of God (Ephesians 3: 5) until revealed to Paul. The existence of the church in the world these past 2000 years, explains that God is forming His personal heavenly family for Jesus Christ, called the church, the 'Body of Christ'.

**5. EQUIPPED** by God for Highest Conflict (Ephesians 6:12).

Because the Church which is the 'Body of Christ' has such a high place of honour, Satan is always at war against it. But God has given us the full armour to enable us to live with victory and in the future be victors seated at God's right hand forever (Eph. 1:21)

**What does all this mean to us today?**

1. We are fully **Secure** in Christ with a home in the Heavenly places (Ephesians 1:3).

2. We are highly **Significant** sharing the place of honour with Christ (Ephesians 1:20).

3. We are richly **Blessed** with Salvation by Grace in Christ (Ephesians 2:7-10).

4. We are the **Reason** for God's plan & purpose for this dispensation (Ephesians 3:10).

5. We are **Victorious** through the power of Jesus, the Holy Spirit and God's Word (Ephesians 6:12).

Are you sure you are in the family called the *Body of Christ*? Have you accepted Jesus Christ as your Saviour and Lord? Have you given Him control of your life?

If you are not sure. Then right now pray and ask Jesus to be your Saviour.

PMA PO Box 2300, Port Orchard, WA  
98366

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So if the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed.  
- John 8:36  
ASSOCIATION

## THE LIVING CHURCH



### The Body of Christ

*"Now you are the body of Christ,  
and each one of you is a part of it."*  
1 Corinthians 12:27

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# THE LIVING CHURCH

**Ephesians 1:3, 1:20, 2:7, 3:10, 6:12**

It is a wonderful thing to know and believe what God has revealed about the Church, called the '*Body of Christ*'.

Notice the wording of 1Corinthians 12:27.  
“*Now **you** are the body of Christ, and each one of you is a part of it.*”

Each true born again Christ-follower is a member of the Church which is the universal spiritual, heavenly and eternal family, called the '*Body of Christ*'.

The apostle Paul expresses this in Ephesians 1:18-23.

*“I pray also that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened in order that you may know the hope to which he has called you, the riches of his glorious inheritance in the saints, and his incomparably great power for us who believe. That power is like the working of his mighty strength, which he exerted in Christ when he raised him from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly realms, far above all rule and authority, power and dominion, and every title that can be given, not only in the present age but also in the one to come. And God placed all things under his (Jesus)*

*feet and appointed him to be head over everything for **the church, which is his body**, the fullness of him who fills everything in every way.”*

The letter to the Ephesians contains the clearest information about this Church belonging to Jesus Christ.

It is a family of believers who are richly blessed. Their eternal destiny is in heaven with Jesus Christ near the Heavenly Father for ever and ever.

In this study we will consider some of the wonderful blessings given to every member of the '*body of Christ*'.

The Holy Spirit caused Paul to choose the Greek words '*en tois epouranious*' ... translated as — **IN THE HEAVENLY PLACES** ..... to indicate the location or part of Heaven, where the Church will have its home.

These words, used only by Paul in his letters, emphasise the place of privilege given to the Church which is called the '*body of Christ*'.

Before time began (2Timothy 1:9) our Heavenly Father promised to Christ, that the Church age believers would be:

**1. CALLED** by God to fill the Highest

Place in Heaven (Ephesians 1:3).

Satan lost his closeness to God - Isaiah 14 - Ezekiel 28. The Church has gained an even higher place than that which Satan lost. How good is that!

**2. CHOSEN** by God to the Highest Place of Honour (Ephesians 1:20).

This place of honour is not promised to any other people in the Bible other than members of the Body of Christ. It is a place with Christ at the right hand of God, far above all.

**3. SAVED** by God as the Highest Act of His Grace (Ephesians 2:7).

The church is predominately made up of Gentiles. We do not deserve such kindness, as to be members of his eternal heavenly family, the '*Body of Christ*'.

**4. FIRMED** by God to reveal His Highest Purpose (Ephesians 3:10).

Up till Paul, Gentiles were only included in God's program, when they turned to the Jewish form of Christianity. But when the people of the Jewish nation rejected their Messiah, God revealed to Paul that Gentiles, who now believe, would be richly blessed as members of the Church, called the '*Body of Christ*'.