

**The Consummation of
Koinonia:
The Church as the Body &
Bride of Christ**

1 Cor 12:12-26; Eph 5:22-33; Rev 19:6-8

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Key Ideas thus Far:

- *Koinonia* means a “commonness of life,” and as Christians it means “a commonness of life in Christ.”
- Since *koinonia* is rooted in Christ, it’s rooted in love.
- Through Jesus Christ, God the Father has invited all who believe to delight with him in himself.

Thoughts on 1 Corinthians 12

- The key to vv 1-11 is v 7: *“To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good.”*

1 Corinthians 12:12-14

“¹² For just as the body is one and has many members, and all the members of the body, though many, are one body, so it is with Christ. ¹³ For in one Spirit we were all baptized into one body—Jews or Greeks, slaves or free—and all were made to drink of one Spirit. ¹⁴ For the body does not consist of one member but of many.”

1 Corinthians 12:18 & 27

“But as it is, God arranged the members in the body, each one of them, as he chose.”

“Now you are the body of Christ and individually members of it.”

Thoughts on 1 Corinthians 12

- God's design for the church is not to obliterate the individual but to put him or her in proper relationship with others.
- The thing that unifies the church is the Holy Spirit himself.
- God is the one responsible for arranging the body according to his own will.
- Paul doesn't say that we're becoming the body of Christ but that we **are** the body of Christ.

A Key Question:

In precisely what way is the church the body of Christ?

Ephesians 5:23

*“For the husband is the head of the wife even as Christ is the head of the church, **his body**, and is himself its Savior.”*

Ephesians 5:28-31

*“In the same way husbands should love their wives **as their own bodies**. He who loves his wife loves himself. For no one ever hated his own flesh, but nourishes and cherishes it, just as Christ does the church, because **we are members of his body**. ‘Therefore a man shall leave his father and mother and hold fast to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh.’”*

Revelation 19:6-8

“⁶ Then I heard what seemed to be the voice of a great multitude, like the roar of many waters and like the sound of mighty peals of thunder, crying out, ‘Hallelujah! For the Lord our God the Almighty reigns. ⁷ Let us rejoice and exult and give him the glory, for the marriage of the Lamb has come, and his Bride has made herself ready; ⁸ it was granted her to clothe herself with fine linen, bright and pure’—for the fine linen is the righteous deeds of the saints.”

Some Thoughts for Communion

- The things we've seen today are true, specifically, that the consummation of *koinonia* is the eternal union of Jesus Christ with his bride to the glory of God the Father.
- This final consummation is rooted in the broken body and spilled blood of Jesus because these are the means by which sinners receive forgiveness and by which we're transformed from sinners into the bride of Christ.
- Because of the grace of God in Christ, our highest joy is now in submitting to the will and ways of our Father and we count it our highest joy to live as the bride of Christ by the grace of God.