

BODY: The Body and Mind of Christ Jesus

We who are born of the Spirit were “bought with a price”. We do not serve men, but the Lord. **Ye are bought with a price; be not ye the servants of men.** *1 Corinthians 7:23.* More specifically, by the trinity of the Spirit—the Word and the Holy Ghost according to the Father’s will by which we come to know Him, we are baptized into the body of Christ and have “put on” Christ. **For as many of you as have been baptized into Christ have put on Christ.** *Galatians 3:27 (Emphasis added).* As having “put on” Christ we live *in Him* as part of *His flesh*. Our spirit/will of man and body are owned by God as purchased possessions, so we must glorify God with the way we use our body, *and* our spirit/will of man which are God’s. **For ye are bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body, and in your spirit, which are God’s.** *1 Corinthians 6:19-20 (Emphasis added).* Here again, the will of the Father is the only proper choice of how we are to live.

Accordingly, we present our bodies as a living sacrifice to prove the will of God. **I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service. And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God.** *Romans 12:1-2 (Emphasis added).*

As the “saved”, we are part of the “body of Christ” and live in Him as part of Him, because He lives!

As each of us alive in the Spirit is a member of His body, the body of Christ is one body with many members. **For the body is not one member, but many.** *1 Corinthians 12:14.* As the “many members” alive in Him today, effectively we are His “body” on earth today as the “true church”. We are *personally and individually* “tasked” to do different things within the body as each of us has a place and corresponding function in His body. **But now hath God set the members every one of them in the body, as it hath pleased him. And if they were all one member, where were the body? But now are they many members, yet but one body. And the eye cannot say unto the hand, I have no need of thee: nor again the head to the feet, I have no need of you. Nay, much more those members of the body, which seem to be more feeble, are necessary: And those members of the body, which we think to be less honourable, upon these we bestow more abundant honour; and our uncomely parts have more abundant comeliness. For our comely parts have no need: but God hath tempered the body together, having given more abundant honour to that part which lacked: That there should be no schism in the body; but that the members should have the same care one for another. And whether one member suffer, all the members suffer with it; or one member be honoured, all the members rejoice with it. Now ye are the body of Christ, and members**

in particular. *1 Corinthians 12:18-27.*

He equips us each to carry out our respective assignments. **Now there are diversities of gifts, but the same Spirit. And there are differences of administrations, but the same Lord. And there are diversities of operations, but it is the same God which worketh all in all. But the manifestation of the Spirit is given to every man to profit withal. For to one is given by the Spirit the word of wisdom; to another the word of knowledge by the same Spirit; To another faith by the same Spirit; to another the gifts of healing by the same Spirit; To another the working of miracles; to another prophecy; to another discerning of spirits; to another divers kinds of tongues; to another the interpretation of tongues: But all these worketh that one and the selfsame Spirit, dividing to every man severally as he will. *1 Corinthians 12:4-11.***

As His one “body” *IS* the *true church* equipped to carry out the will of the Father as the many members differing in function, He (Jesus/the Word) remains the head of the church. **And he is the head of the body, the church: who is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead; that in all things he might have the preeminence. *Colossians 1:18.*** As the “head”, we then have the “mind of Christ” as being part of Him. **But he that is spiritual judgeth all things, yet he himself is judged of no man. For who hath known the mind of the Lord, that he may instruct him? but we have the mind of Christ. *1 Corinthians 2:15-16.***

The “mind of Christ” is the mind of Jesus to live for the things of God in heaven, according to His will. **For I delight in the law of God after the inward man: But I see another law in my members, warring against the law of my mind, and bringing me into captivity to the law of sin which is in my members. O wretched man that I am! who shall deliver me from the body of this death? I thank God through Jesus Christ our Lord. So then *with the mind I myself serve the law of God; but with the flesh the law of sin. Romans 7:22-25 (Emphasis added).*** Conversely, the “carnal mind” is the mind to live for the things of this world to the pleasing of the flesh and the god of this world. ... [T]he carnal mind is enmity against God: for it is not subject to the law of God, neither indeed can be. *Romans 8:7.* (“Enmity” means hostility; hatred; ill will; animosity; antagonism,.... Therefore, “enmity against God” is “ill will” toward the pure Word, or simply “ill will” as not of the Father’s will.)

The “mind of Christ” brings with it the recognition of, and insistence on, the will of God. A “carnal mind” brings with it “hostility, hatred, ill will, animosity, or antagonism” towards the will of God and a rejection of the pure Word usually in favor of some adulterated version of it. To be carnally minded means death. **For to be carnally minded is death; but to be spiritually minded is life and peace. *Romans 8:6.*** Hence, the carnal mind caters to the flesh and the will of the flesh, not the will of God.

Does having the mind of Christ mean the brethren never have a carnal (human) thought? Of course not, the flesh is always there to remind us of our weakness *and* our need to live by the Word obeying the Father. **For I delight in the law of God after the inward man: But I see another law in my members, warring against the law of my mind, and bringing me into captivity to the law of sin which is in my members. O wretched man that I am! who shall**

deliver me from the body of this death? I thank God through Jesus Christ our Lord. So then with the mind I myself serve the law of God; but with the flesh the law of sin. *Romans 7:22-25.*

Paul further summarized the predicament this way, not for an excuse, but for edification and encouragement of all who will be saved. **For we know that the law is spiritual: but I am carnal, sold under sin. For that which I do I allow not: for what I would, that do I not; but what I hate, that do I. If then I do that which I would not, I consent unto the law that it is good. Now then it is no more I that do it, but sin that dwelleth in me. For I know that in me (that is, in my flesh,) dwelleth no good thing: for to will is present with me; but how to perform that which is good I find not. For the good that I would I do not: but the evil which I would not, that I do. Now if I do that I would not, it is no more I that do it, but sin that dwelleth in me.** *Romans 7:14-20.*

Can a person have both a carnal mind and the mind of Christ? Yes, but not at the same time. When a person “flip-flops” between the mind of Christ for the things of God and a carnal mind for things of the flesh, they are “double-minded.” **A double minded man is unstable in all his ways.** *James 1:8; see also, James 4:7-8.* “Double-minded” is properly rendered “double-souled” in the King James Bible. “Double-souled” means someone has a “two-willed” consideration of life. It does not mean someone has two souls, two spirits, or two brains, etc.

A “double-souled” person desires both, the will of the flesh and the will of God. Here again we come to know the combination of the “desires of the flesh and of the mind” is part of our carnality. **Wherein in time past ye walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that now worketh in the children of disobedience: Among whom also we all had our conversation in times past in the lusts of our flesh, fulfilling the desires of the flesh and of the mind; and were by nature the children of wrath, even as others.** *Ephesians 2:2-3.* Recall, the “desires of the flesh and mind” are properly thought of as the “wills of the flesh and mind”.

Presented another way, “lukewarmness” is the double-souled (two wills) lifestyle. God does not like the “lukewarm” who seek to live a “worldly” and “godly” lifestyle. **And unto the angel of the church of the Laodiceans write; these things saith the Amen, the faithful and true witness, the beginning of the creation of God; I know thy works, that thou art neither cold nor hot: I would thou wert cold or hot. So then because thou art lukewarm, and neither cold nor hot, I will spue thee out of my mouth.** *Revelation 3:14-16 (Emphasis added).*

Please note, “lukewarmness” and “double-mindedness” are not the same as the inherent weakness of the flesh. Flesh by its nature is weak. **Watch and pray, that ye enter not into temptation: the spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak.** *Matthew 26:41; see also, Mark 14:38.* The weakness of the flesh is a human problem for all of us. Even the flesh of Jesus was tempted to disobey God’s will. For instance, the crucifixion of Jesus was most assuredly the will of the Father, but the flesh of Jesus *did not* want to submit to the torture leading up to and including the crucifixion. The body of Jesus produced sweat like drops of blood evidencing His anguish. **...Father, if thou be willing, remove this cup from me: nevertheless not my will, but thine, be done. And there appeared an angel unto him from**

heaven, strengthening him. And being in an agony he prayed more earnestly: and his sweat was as it were great drops of blood falling down to the ground.

Luke 22:42-44; see also, Matthew 26:39 and 42.

The Holy Ghost is that Spirit that raised Jesus from the dead, and gives eternal life to those that are His!

As Jesus struggled with His flesh, He knows we will struggle with ours. **For we have not an high priest which cannot be touched with the feeling of our infirmities; but was in all points tempted like as we are, yet without sin.** *Hebrews 4:15.* The struggle with our own flesh, as WE live to *do* the Father's will personally and individually by the Holy Ghost, is part of our suffering for His sake (i.e., on His behalf). **For unto you it is given in the behalf of Christ, not only to believe on him, but also to suffer for his sake;** *Philippians 1:29.*

Thus, we who are the children of God *MUST* now realize the *lifestyle* of Jesus *is* our new lifestyle as part of being "renewed" by the Holy Ghost (*Titus 3:5*) and a "new creature". **Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new.** *2 Corinthians 5:17 (Emphasis added); see also, Galatians 6:15.* As a new creature, our "new man" was created in righteousness and true holiness—definitely not of ourselves. **And that ye put on the new man, which after God is created in righteousness and true holiness.** *Ephesians 4:24.*

Our "old man" and his "selfish" sinful lifestyle died along with the will of our flesh. **Knowing this, that our old man is crucified with him, that the body of sin might be destroyed, that henceforth we should not serve sin.** *Romans 6:6.* Thus, we do not behave as we did before. **That ye put off concerning the former conversation the old man, which is corrupt according to the deceitful lusts;** *Ephesians 4:22.* The death of our "old man" is a *daily* occurrence, and Paul said it this way: **I protest by your rejoicing which I have in Christ Jesus our Lord, I die daily.** *1 Corinthians 15:31.*

Accordingly, only we can give life to the will of our flesh by choosing it over the will of God. Many people do so while professing to be "saved" and live falsely lacking the penitent sincerity of heart. **Woe unto you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! for ye make clean the outside of the cup and of the platter, but within they are full of extortion and excess. Thou blind Pharisee, cleanse first that which is within the cup and platter, that the outside of them may be clean also. Woe unto you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! for ye are like unto whited sepulchres, which indeed appear beautiful outward, but are within full of dead men's bones, and of all uncleanness. Even so ye also outwardly appear righteous unto men, but within ye are full of hypocrisy and iniquity.** *Matthew 23:25-28.* However, holding back from doing the will of God, even with respect to something as meaningless to God as money, can be blasphemy of the Holy Ghost which is definitely *not* a good idea.

For example, **But a certain man named Ananias, with Sapphira his wife, sold a possession, And kept back part of the price, his wife also being privy to**

it, and brought a certain part, and laid it at the apostles' feet. But Peter said, Ananias, *why hath Satan filled thine heart to lie to the Holy Ghost, and to keep back part of the price of the land? Whiles it remained, was it not thine own? and after it was sold, was it not in thine own power? why hast thou conceived this thing in thine heart? thou hast not lied unto men, but unto God.* And Ananias hearing these words fell down, and gave up the ghost: and great fear came on all them that heard these things. And the young men arose, wound him up, and carried him out, and buried him. And it was about the space of three hours after, when his wife, not knowing what was done, came in. And Peter answered unto her, Tell me whether ye sold the land for so much? And she said, Yea, for so much. Then Peter said unto her, *How is it that ye have agreed together to tempt the Spirit of the Lord?* behold, the feet of them which have buried thy husband are at the door, and shall carry thee out. Then fell she down straightway at his feet, and yielded up the ghost: and the young men came in, and found her dead, and, carrying her forth, buried her by her husband. And great fear came upon all the church, and upon as many as heard these things. *Acts 5:1-11.*

As to the brethren, blasphemy of the Holy Ghost is not something we discuss, yet it is a serious matter of repudiating the Spirit. **And whosoever shall speak a word against the Son of man, it shall be forgiven him: but unto him that blasphemeth against the Holy Ghost it shall not be forgiven.** *Luke 12:10; see also Mark 3:29.*

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