

“The Body of Christ”

God has given believers three primary sources of power and strength for our transformation into the image of Christ and for the completion of our mission to the world: the word of God, the Spirit of God and the people of God, the church.

What is the church?

- ✧ Bride
- ✧ Branches
- ✧ Building/Temple
- ✧ Priesthood
- ✧ Sheep
- ✧ Family
- ✧ Body
- ✧ *ekklesia*
- ✧ *kuriakos*

What is the church?

- ✧ A mystery
- ✧ A diverse unity
 1. unity reflects the nature of God

Trinity = God eternally exists as three equal yet distinct Persons: God the Father, God the Son, & God the Holy Spirit.

There is only One God (UNITY)
Each Person is distinct (PLURALITY)
Each Person is fully God (EQUALITY)
And the Father is over all (AUTHORITY)

2. unity is not uniformity
3. unity is not moral compromise
4. unity is commitment based on truth

“Truth comes before unity. Unity without truth is hazardous. Our Lord's prayer in John 17 must be read in its full context. Look at verse 17: ‘Sanctify them through thy truth; thy word is truth.’ Only those sanctified through the Word can be one in Christ. To teach otherwise is to betray the Gospel.”

—Charles H. Spurgeon, *The Essence of Separation*

5. unity values the creativity and sovereignty of God

The church needs you & you need the church

- ✧ for maturity
- ✧ for mission

“that they may all be one; even as You, Father, are in Me and I in You, that they also may be in Us, *so that the world may believe that You sent Me...* I in them and You in Me, that they may be perfected in unity, *so that the world may know that You sent Me*, and loved them, even as You have loved Me.”
—John 17:21, 23

The world needs the church

- ✧ incarnation
- ✧ proclamation

Has it ever occurred to you that one hundred pianos all tuned to the same fork are automatically tuned to each other? They are of one accord by being tuned, not to each other, but to another standard to which each one must individually bow.
—A.W. Tozer, *The Pursuit of God*