

“For as the body is one and has many members, but all the members of that one body, being many, are one body, *so also is Christ.*”

I have two simple questions for you this morning.

The first is “Who is Jesus?”
The second, “Where is Jesus?”

The simple answer to the first is:
“Jesus is the man that the co-eternal Son and Word of God became, when he was incarnate of the Virgin Mary in first century Palestine.”

The simple answer to the second is:
“Jesus is seated at the right hand of God the Father in heaven.”

But when we read our New Testaments closely, we realize that, although those statements are true, they are incomplete.

Consider again our verse from 1st Corinthians: “For as the body is one and has many members, but all the members of that one body, being many, are one body, *so also is Christ.*”
So also is Christ.

This is Christ, this is Jesus: A body with many members – YOU are the members.

We’re accustomed to hearing the scriptural truth that the Church is the body of Christ – that Christ is the head and we are the body.

But we often fail to appreciate what that really means. It means:
The glorified existence of Jesus Christ now in heaven includes the existence of all of us who have been united to him through baptism.

At baptism, we were literally incorporated into him.

As you know, the verb “incorporate” derives from the Latin “corpus” meaning body. *Thus we are literally assimilated into bodily existence of Christ. He includes us.*

Jesus Christ is the man God became, but his humanity includes our humanity – each and every one of us. He is not simply an individual, but a communion of persons in love.

As St. Augustine put it, “the total Christ – head and body.”

One can no longer conceive his existence exclusive of our existence.

This is why the Apostle Paul states that, “If we have known Christ according to the flesh, we know him thus no longer.”

We don't simply know him as man in the way that one man knows another man. We know him precisely in the community that we are – in each other, as the Church.

It's important to note that the Apostle Paul envisions the incorporation of believers into Christ's body as actual and physical – that the members of a Christian's body are extensions of Christ himself.

Consider his question: “Shall I take the members of Christ and unite them to a harlot?,” (I Cor. 6:15). He is quite clear that even the physical body of a Christian has been integrated into the glorified hypostasis of Christ.

Your body is an extension of Christ – a member of Christ.

In the unity of the one body of Christ, then, believers are all integrated into one living organism. We share one flesh – his. One blood courses through the veins of the body and nourishes us

all – his. One Spirit indwells the body and each of its members – his.

This unity is so real that “if one member suffers, all the members suffer with it; or if one member is honored, all the members rejoice with it – now you are the body of Christ and members individually” (vss. 26-7), according to the Apostle.

So, who is Jesus? *He is the man God became – in union with our humanity.*

Where is Jesus? *He is in glory – and in our very midst.*

What are the implications of all this?

Time does not allow for me to develop these implications. So, I will simply leave you with the conclusion that the Apostle draws in his discussion of this theme in 1 Corinthians 6:

“Therefore, glorify God in your body and in your spirit, which are God’s.”

You belong to him, you are in him. Live accordingly.

Christ is in our midst!