

The Connection

Messages of Hope



A Weekly Online Newsletter: Edition 836

May 21, 2025

“UNITY OF THE BODY”

The New Testament emphasizes the **unity of the body of Christ** as a spiritual and practical reality among believers, grounded in their shared faith in Jesus, the indwelling of the Holy Spirit, and mutual love. This concept is most clearly described using the metaphor of a human body, where every believer is a different part but all are united under one head—Christ!

1. One Body, Many Members

Paul writes in **1 Corinthians 12:12-13 (ESV)**:

"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. 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."

This shows that despite diverse backgrounds, believers are unified through the Holy Spirit into a single spiritual body.

2. Christ as the Head

The unity of the church depends on Christ being the head. As Paul says in **Ephesians 4:15-16 (ESV)**:

"...we are to grow up in every way into him who is the head, into Christ, from whom the whole body, joined and held together by every joint with which it is equipped... makes the body grow so that it builds itself up in love."

This means that unity is not just structural but dynamic—growing and sustained by Christ's life flowing through each member.

3. Unity Through the Spirit

In **Ephesians 4:3-6 (ESV)**, Paul urges believers:

"eager to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. There is one body and one Spirit—just as you were called to the one hope that belongs to your call—one Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God and Father of all, who is over all and through all and in all."

This sevenfold declaration emphasizes the oneness of God's people grounded in their shared identity in Christ.

4. Diversity with Interdependence

Although each member is unique, none is independent of the others. Paul writes in **1 Corinthians 12:21, 25-26 (ESV)**:

"The eye cannot say to the hand, 'I have no need of you,' nor again the head to the feet, 'I have no need of you.' ...that there may be no division in the body, but that the members may have the same care for one another. If one member suffers, all suffer together; if one member is honored, all rejoice together."

Unity is not uniformity but loving interdependence.

5. Unity as a Witness to the World

Jesus prayed for this unity in **John 17:21 (ESV)**:

"...that they may all be one, just 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 have sent me."

The visible unity of believers serves as a testimony to the truth of Christ's mission.

Summary

The unity of the body of Christ is:

- **Spiritual** – through one Spirit (1 Cor. 12:13)
- **Relational** – interdependent members (1 Cor. 12:25-26)
- **Christ-centered** – under one Head (Eph. 4:15)
- **Missional** – a witness to the world (John 17:21)

It calls all believers to live in humility, love, and mutual service, reflecting the unity and diversity within the triune God Himself.

HOPE Calendar

Wednesday, May 21
Study and Prayer
Bible Study @ 7pm
Prayer @ 7:45

Thursday, May 22
Worship Team Rehearsal @ 7:00

Sunday, May 25
Worship Team Run Through
@ 8:00 a.m.

Wednesday, May 28
Study and Prayer
Bible Study @ 7pm
Prayer @ 7:45

Thursday, May 29
Worship Team Rehearsal @ 7:00

**Helping Hands for
May 25, 2024**

ProPresenter
Dianne Reinoso
Soundboard
Jane Davis
Live Streaming
Diane Williams
Communion
Lynn Joyner

**Scripture Text and Sermon
This Coming Sunday
"THE PASTOR-TEACHER,
TEACHER...
AND THE TAUGHT"
1 Peter 5:1-5
Hebrews 13:7,17**

Prophecies	O.T.	N.T.
May	18	Matt 27:46
May	19	Ps 22:2
May	20	Matt 27:45
May	21	Ps 22:7
May	22	Matt 27:39-44
May	23	Ps 22:8

GROW

Women of HOPE

**Meetings generally at HOPE
on the second and fourth
Saturdays
every month**

"Food of the Month"
for the Raleigh Dream Center
Food Pantry
Condiments
We have a collection bin in the
foyer

SERVE

TLC Devotion
May 28, 2025
@ 11:00 a.m.
5124 Departure Dr # 101,
Raleigh

HOPE Meal Ministry
Take a meal from the freezer if
needed for you or someone
else.

**HOPE CHURCH RALEIGH
WELCOMES THE
NAVIGATORS
Saturday, May 31
9am - 1pm**

Prayer Requests:

Gene & Becky Hale, Ron Clifton, Pastor
Search Committee, HOPE Vision Team, Patty
Moyer and her son Brandon, Chad's family,
Josh McDonald, Tom Riggelman (Bruce),
Janice Worthington, Donna Williams, Dale H.,
Jerry & Alice K., Burton(Erin), The Branch's,
Phil Parton, Krishana, Dave Rendall, Sam and
Rachael, Joan Rollinson, Dianne Reinoso,
Cindy (Elizabeth), Nancy Hutchins,
Barbara(81) Stroke, Joey(18) Crohn's, Ebo
(Glioblastoma #3/4)-family has 4 children,
Youth Ministry, Kathy Jo and her family,
Peggy Karpenske, Claudia in Idaho (Kathy H),
Dave & Dot Geil, Corbin Broome, The Mallory
family, Carol & Colin (Kathy H), Loretta (Sandi
U), Joan Summers, Jordan Stevens (Lynn J.),
our Military, Police, Fire, and EMS.
Missionaries, our Nation.

PLEASE NOTE:

**THERE WILL BE NO SUPPER
TONIGHT AT 6 PM. PLEASE JOIN US
FOR BIBLE STUDY AND PRAYER
BEGINNING AT 7 PM AND
CONTINUING THROUGH THE
SUMMER.**

**UPCOMING
WOMEN OF HOPE
Saturdays at 10 a.m. at HOPE**

6/14

**"Loyalty is the mark of a good
friend. What kind of friend are
you?"**

HOPE Church Raleigh
An Evangelical Presbyterian Church
4911 Green Rd
Raleigh, NC 27616
919-508-6827
Worship Time: 9:30 AM

www.HopeChurchRaleigh.org
www.facebook.com/HOPEChurchRaleigh
Twitter: @HopeChRaleigh
**YouTube.com (type "HOPE Church Raleigh"
in the search box)**