

Two Bodies Belonging To Christ

We know that all things belong to the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. They created all things and thus have the inherent right of ownership. However, there are two things we want to note that specifically belong to Christ because He purchased them.

First, the church belongs to Christ. The Bible declares, "Therefore take heed to yourselves and to all the flock, among which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers, to shepherd the church of God which He purchased with His own blood" (Acts 20:28). Indeed, Christ gave His life for the church (Ephesians 5:25). The church, therefore, does not belong to any one man or group of men. Some act to the contrary, as did Diotrephes or as the pope does (3 John 9, 10). Nevertheless, the truth is the church, both local and universal, belongs to Christ. He has the right to direct its affairs, setting limits and issuing commands of work. It is the church's duty to submit to His will in all matters. For instance, the church's work, worship, and organization is governed by the New Testament. If the church neglects or refuses to obey, it is apostate and stands condemned (Revelation 2; 3).

Second, each Christian belongs to Christ. The Bible declares, "Or do you not know that your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit who is in you, whom you have from God, and you are not your own? For you were bought at a price; therefore glorify God in your body and in your spirit, which are God's" (1 Corinthians 6:19-20). Again, Christ gave His life for each disciple (cf. Galatians 2:20). Hence, the Christian is not his own nor anybody else's. Some act to the contrary, as did some at Corinth and Pergamos (1 Corinthians 6:15-17; Revelation 2:12-17). Yet, the fact remains that each and every Christian is a possession of the Lord. He has the authority to guide the Christian's life, in relation to Him, other Christians, the family, and the world. The Christian is obligated to obey the Savior in all areas. For example, the Christian must dress modestly, remain sober, and use his tongue for righteousness. If a Christian neglects or refuses to submit to the Gospel, he has fallen from grace and is severed from Christ (cf. Galatians 5:1-4).

In short, the body of Christ, the church, and the body of the Christian were purchased by the blood of Christ. Each is to be used in a manner that glorifies God, not selfishly for our own desires and pleasures. Let us respect each body, treating them as "purchased possessions."

Steven F. Deaton