## *4 What's the "Church" got to Do with Baptism?*

1) 1 Corinthians 12: 1 – 30	Notes
<i>"For we were all baptized by <u>one</u> <u>Spirit</u> into <u>one body</u>whether Jews or Greeks, slave or free" (v.13)</i>	
<ul> <li>There are different kinds of gifts</li> <li>All given by the same Spirit</li> </ul>	
<ul> <li>there are different kinds of serving all serve the same Lord</li> </ul>	
<ul> <li>There are different kinds of working</li> <li>all are the work of the same God</li> <li>everybody is included</li> </ul>	
* <b>Each one of us</b> receives the Spirit	
* It is given for the <u>common good</u>	
<ul> <li>There are different kinds of gifts</li> </ul>	
<ul> <li>All these are the work of one and the same Spirit who:</li> </ul>	
• gives them to each one	
<ul> <li>determines who gets what</li> </ul>	
<ul> <li>The body is a <u>unit</u> which is made up of <u>many parts</u>,</li> </ul>	
All its many parts, form one body	

* So it is with Christ	Notes
• we are <u>all</u> baptized by <u>one</u> Spirit into <u>one</u> body	
no matter who we are	
in the <u>one baptism</u> we are all given the <u>one Spirit</u> to "drink"	
<ul> <li>if we can't do what someone else can, that doesn't mean we don't belong</li> </ul>	
we all have <u>our own gifts</u> and do <u>not need to envy</u> others'	
<ul> <li>a body with only one ministry would lack all the others</li> </ul>	
<ul> <li>God has arranged the parts in the body, as God wanted them</li> </ul>	
<ul> <li>We are meant to be different so that the body is complete</li> </ul>	
<ul> <li>Many parts make one body</li> </ul>	
• All parts matter	
<ul> <li>The body needs the full variety, <u>so</u> <u>nobody can say</u> to another "you are not needed"</li> </ul>	
<ul> <li>There should be no division in the body</li> </ul>	
<ul> <li>Its parts should have equal concern for each other</li> </ul>	
<ul> <li>We are the Body of Christ, and each one of us is a part of it</li> <li>God has appointed a variety of ministries</li> </ul>	
<ul> <li>Nobody does everything</li> </ul>	
We don't all do the same things	

2) Ephesians 2: 19-22	Notes
<ul> <li>You were dead in your transgressions and sins</li> </ul>	
<ul> <li><u>All of us</u> once gratified the cravings of our sinful nature and followed its desires and thoughts</li> <li>we were by nature objects of wrath</li> </ul>	
<ul> <li>Because of God's great love for us, God, who is rich in mercy, made us alive with Christ</li> </ul>	
<ul> <li>God expressed his kindness to us in Christ Jesus</li> </ul>	
<ul> <li>It is by grace you have been saved, through faith</li> </ul>	
<ul> <li>It's not deserved, it's the gift of God</li> <li>So no one can boast</li> <li>We are created in Christ Jesus to do good works</li> </ul>	
<ul> <li>We were cut off from Christ</li> </ul>	
* excluded from God's covenants	
<ul> <li>without hope and without God in the world</li> </ul>	
<ul> <li>In Christ Jesus we who were far away have been brought near</li> <li>Christ himself is our peace</li> <li>He has destroyed the dividing wall of hostility</li> <li>He has created in himself one new humanity, so making peace</li> <li>Jesus reconciled us all to God through the cross</li> <li>In Jesus we all have access to the Father by one Spirit</li> </ul>	
<ul> <li>As a result, we are no longer foreigners and aliens</li> </ul>	
<ul> <li>we are fellow citizens with God's people and members of God's household</li> </ul>	
<ul> <li>our foundations are the apostles and prophets</li> </ul>	

- in Jesus the whole building is joined together
- in him we too are being built together

## 3) And So?

- Many good, positive and wonderful things, the ideals of the Church, cannot always be realised because of sin
- \* Sin = the active or passive refusal to co-operate with the wonderfully good purposes of God for us and the rest of creation
- People refuse to take responsibility for their thoughts, words, and deeds, but blame God and other people for the results
- Baptism undoes all of this only as we open our lives more and more to God daily

Baptism isn't the magic of a moment but the journey of a lifetime.

"Christianity means community through Jesus Christ and in Jesus Christ. No Christian community is more or less than this. Whether it be a brief, single encounter or the daily fellowship of years. Christian community is only this. We belong to one another only through and in Jesus Christ.

What does this mean? It means, first, that a Christian needs others because of Jesus Christ. It means, second, that a Christian comes to others only through Jesus Christ. It means, third, that in Jesus Christ we have been chosen from eternity, accepted in time, and united for eternity."

(Dietrich Bonhoeffer, quoted in Baptism: A Baptism Sourcebook, LTP, Chicago, 1993, p. 169)

