

A Great Mystery

Christ and the

Church

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By Robert G. Theophilus

THIS BOOKLET IS NOT TO BE SOLD. The information provided is for the benefit of former members of the congregations of the Worldwide Church of God (WCG), and of current and prospective members of God's Church.

In his letter to the Ephesians, Paul tells us that Christ and the Church is a great mystery. What is this great mystery? Is it possible for us to ever be able to resolve it? Is the key to this mystery hidden in bits of information scattered here and there throughout the Bible? Let's review what the Bible has to say about this enigmatic statement by Paul.

Preamble

Please Note: All comments in brackets [] or in parentheses () as well as highlighted text (bolded and/or in blue) are from the author of this study. Bible quotations are in maroon.

I think it is essential to clarify the question of the “Holy Spirit” before we begin this study. If we say that who or what is the “Holy Spirit” is the question that needs to be answered, we are starting from the assumption that there exists such a being as the Holy Spirit and that it is a separate and distinct being from God and the Word. The question which should be asked is who are the beings the Bible tell us are holy, whose composition is spirit and who have existed eternally? Either the Bible plainly tells us who are the separate and distinct beings that existed from all eternity who created all things (spirit beings and the material universe) or we have no way of getting an answer to our question.

The Holy Spirits of the God Family

The Bible tells us in Gen 1:1 that:

Gen 1:1 In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth.

The Hebrew word translated “God” is “Eloheem” which is the plural form of “Eloah which means “God”. The word “Eloheem” refers to “gods.” It is a uniplural noun like family, group, team, etc. In the beginning, there was therefore more than one God being in existence but how many were there?

Joh 1:1 In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.

Joh 1:2 The same was in the beginning with God.

Joh 1:3 All things were made by him; and without him was not any thing made that was made.

In the beginning when God created the heaven and the earth there was God and there was another being with God who was also God, the Word. How can these two beings both be God; isn't that impossible?

The word God indicates the kind of existence of these 2 beings: their nature is to be God in the same way that all human beings have the same human nature. However, having the same nature does not mean that all human beings constitute a single being; indeed, they are all separate and distinct beings with their own personalities. God and the Word have in common the same nature or, level and type of existence, but they are separate and distinct beings just like all human beings who have the same human nature are separate and distinct beings.

God the Father

We read in the Bible that God became a father when the Word became flesh (Phi 2:5-8) by being born of woman after having been conceived in the virgin Mary by the holy spirit being called God (Luke 1:35). God from that point on became God the Father and the Word, who was born as the flesh-and-blood Jesus of Nazareth became God's Son or the Son of God. He was both fully God (his father was God and fully human (his mother was the virgin Mary).

Jesus was God the Father's only begotten son at the time when He was conceived in Mary's womb but He was not to be the only one begotten of the Father. God the Father is the holy spirit being in the Godhead that calls men to salvation.

Joh 6:44 No man can come to me, except the Father which hath sent me draw him: and I will raise him up at the last day.

Joh 6:65 And he said, Therefore said I unto you, that no man can come unto me, except it were given unto him of my Father.

Joh 18:9 That the saying might be fulfilled, which he spake, Of them which thou [God the Father] gavest me have I lost none.

1Pe 1:3 Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, which according to his abundant mercy hath begotten us again unto a lively hope by the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead,

God the Word and Spokesman

The Bible term for being called is to be spiritually begotten by God the Father (1Pe 1:3). When we are begotten, we become a spiritual embryo that can be born again as a glorified spirit being with eternal life. Those begotten of the holy spirit God the Father who follow their calling are then able to come to the holy spirit being called the Word and Spokesman (John 6:44; 65; 18:9) who then teaches them. The glorified Jesus-Christ as God the Father's Word and Spokesman is the holy spirit being that works in the minds of God the Father's called and chosen ones.

Joh 7:39 (But this spake he of the Spirit, which they that believe on him should receive: for the Holy Ghost was not yet given; because that Jesus was not yet glorified.)

Jesus had to first be glorified for it to be possible for Christians to have access to the holy spirit called the Word and Spokesman because the glorified Christ is the holy spirit being who works in the minds of God's saints (John 14:17) in the same way that Satan is the evil spirit that works in the minds of the children of disobedience (Eph2:2).

Joh 14:17 Even the Spirit of truth; whom the world cannot receive, because it seeth him not, neither knoweth him: but ye know him; for he [Christ] dwelleth with you, and shall be in you. [On the day of Pentecost, it would be in them and in all true Christians.]

Eph 2:2 Wherein in time past ye walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, [Satan] the spirit that now worketh in the children of disobedience:

The holy spirit God the Father calls men and those who follow their calling are then taught by the holy spirit called the Word and God the Father's Spokesman.

Joh 14:26 But the Comforter, which is the Holy Ghost, whom the Father will send in my name, he shall teach you all things, and bring all things to your remembrance, whatsoever I have said unto you.

The Holy Ghost

The expression “Holy Ghost” used in the Bible is in error as there are no ghosts in the Godhead but rather 2 beings that are holy (John 17:11; Isa 6:3) and spirit (John 4:24).

Joh 17:11 And now I am no more in the world, but these are in the world, and I come to thee. Holy Father, keep through thine own name those whom thou hast given me, that they may be one, as we are.

Isa 6:3 And one cried unto another, and said, **Holy, holy, holy**, is the LORD of hosts: the whole earth is full of his glory.

Joh 4:24 **God is a Spirit:** and they that worship him must worship him in spirit and in truth.

These 2 God beings who are holy and spirit are the holy spirit beings of the God family who existed in the beginning at the creation of all things.

Joh 1:1 In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.

Joh 1:2 The same was in the beginning with God.

Joh 1:3 All things were made by him; and without him was not any thing made that was made.

And, the Word who was with God is before all things i.e., *nothing* existed before He created them whether made of spirit or matter.

Col 1:15 [Christ] Who is the image of the invisible God, the first-born of every creature:

Col 1:16 For by him [the Word who became Jesus-Christ] were all things created, that are in heaven, and that are in earth, visible and invisible, whether they be thrones, or dominions, or principalities, or powers: all things were created by him, and for him:

Col 1:17 And he is before all things, and by him all things consist.

In the beginning before anything either physical or spiritual was created, there was God and the Word who existed before all things and no other being is mentioned as having existed with them. There is no bib-

lical evidence that there ever existed a third, separate and distinct personage in the Godhead called the “Holy Spirit” who dwelt in eternity with God and the Word.

God is a Family

Throughout the Bible we can find many verses which clearly indicates the existence of family relations between God and the Word and God’s called, chosen and faithful.

Mat 11:27 All things are delivered unto me of my Father: and no man knoweth the Son, but the Father; neither knoweth any man the Father, save the Son, and he to whomsoever the Son will reveal him.

Mat 12:50 For whosoever shall do the will of my Father which is in heaven, the same is my brother, and sister, and mother.

Joh 20:17 Jesus saith unto her, Touch me not; for I am not yet ascended to my Father: but go to my brethren, and say unto them, I ascend unto my Father, and your Father; and to my God, and your God.

God is clearly a family in which many can be ultimately born again by a resurrection from the dead to eternal, glorified spirit life in God’s Kingdom.

Rom 8:29 For whom he did foreknow, he also did predestinate to be conformed to the image of his Son, that he [God’s Son] might be the firstborn among many brethren.

Col 1:18 And he [the glorified Christ] is the head of the body, the church: who is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead; that in all things he might have the preeminence.

Christ was the first to be born again by a resurrection from the dead to be followed by many brethren.

Bible Writing Convention

The practice in the Bible has been to simply use the expression “the Holy Spirit” without indicating which God personage in the Godhead the expression represents. Over time, because of this practice, just about everybody has come to believe that the Holy Spirit is a separate and distinct God being in the Godhead but, there is no single verse or group of verses in the Bible that prove the existence of such a third being in the Godhead. The words “holy” and “spirit” are adjectives that describe the nature of

God the Father and of God the Word i.e., they are holy beings made of spirit.

Whenever we encounter the expressions the “Holy Spirit” or simply the “Holy Spirit” in the Bible we must look at the context to determine of which holy spirit being of the Godhead the Bible is talking about: the holy spirit, God the Father or the holy spirit, the Word and Spokesman.

The Word is the holy spirit being in the Godhead who carries out the instructions and wishes of the holy spirit, God. He is the faithful son who seeks to do his father’s will in all things. He is the member of the God family that did the work of creating the heaven and the earth, who ruled over ancient Israel through Moses and his human successors, He is the one who became a man who suffered and died to be God the Father’s perfect sacrifice for sin and make the salvation of mankind possible, etc. and He came to reveal the Father to those who follow the Father’s calling.

Making Things Clearer

In this study, when referring to God’s spirit who, depending on the circumstances can be the holy spirit personage called God the Father or the holy spirit personage called God the Word and Spokesman, I will not capitalize either of the adjectives “holy” and “spirit”. This is in order to not perpetuate the false impression in the minds of readers that there is a 3rd being in the Godhead called the “Holy Spirit.” Instead, I will refer to either of the holy spirits in the God family as being God’s spirit without capitalizing the word “spirit” to make it plain that we are not referring to a third God being in the God family called the “Holy Spirit” but to one of the 2 God beings in the Godhead.

God’s family is presently made up of 2 holy spirit beings to which are to be added thousands and possibly millions of other holy spirit beings when God’s plan of salvation for mankind has reached its end. The saints that endure in the faith until the end of their natural human life, will be resurrected as individual holy spirit beings in God’s Kingdom when it is established.

There are two studies which you can read regarding what is the “Holy Spirit” and decide for yourself in light of the Bible-based evidence offered if such a being exists in the Godhead. These studies are: [What is the Holy Spirit? Cliff Notes Version](#) and [Who or What is the Holy Spirit?](#)

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Paul in the book of Ephesians provides us with information about the relationship that exists between Christ and the Church; the relationship that should exist between a man and a woman in marriage and that a married couple constitutes one flesh. He concludes by saying that what he has been talking about has to do with a great mystery.

Eph 5:32 This is a great mystery: but I speak concerning Christ and the church.

What is this great mystery?

What about God's Church; has it ever explained what is the great mystery of Christ and the church? And, what is God's Church? Is it an organization of men with a supreme spiritual leader to whom God's truth is revealed and who disseminates it to congregations scattered in many parts of the world through ministers he has appointed?

Who, what and why God's Church are all topics of great importance that have been covered in detail in the following studies available to you by clicking on the following hyperlinks:

[Why Does God Have a Church? What is God's Church?](#)

[Was God's Church EVER a Physical Organization?](#) and

[Are Preachers the Means to Salvation?](#)

I realize that you may have to do a lot of reading to become familiar with a great deal of information you need to know to be able to follow along with what will be said in this study. Unfortunately, it would just take too much time and space for me to repeat it all here.

Knowing and understanding correctly the truth of God requires patience, perseverance, time and effort. It is God's reward to those who are hungering and thirsting for truth and who are knocking. You must grow the talent(s) given you at the time of your calling by the holy spirit God the Father. If you fail to do so, God plainly tells us in the parable of the talents that true Christians who have no growth will lose their salvation. A talent is a symbol for that portion of understanding of the truth that was given you when you were called.

Mat 25:29 For unto every one that hath shall be given, and he shall have abundance: but from him that hath not shall be taken away even that which he hath.

If you fail to grow your talent(s) for whatever reason, you will lose the truth given you as for you to maintain it requires that you regularly be studying the Scriptures with a great desire to learn more of God's truth and that you have growth.

Not having growth results in loss of salvation.

Mat 25:30 And cast ye the unprofitable servant into outer darkness: there shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth.

Salvation requires growth in knowledge AND understanding. The unconverted world can have knowledge but it does not have nor can it have understanding of the Scriptures. You can rote memorize Scriptures and repeat them to others but knowledge is not understanding. For example, who or what is the holy spirit mentioned in the Bible. Is it a thing, a person, a process, energy that flows from God, etc.? We can know and repeat the words "holy spirit" to others but understanding is needed for us to know who or what it is and the role it/he plays in the salvation process. Everybody knows that planes fly (knowledge) but most people don't understand how a 100 ton Boeing 737 can become airborne (understanding).

How important is it to have "understanding?"

Pro 9:10 The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom: and the knowledge of the holy is understanding.

If you don't have understanding you don't have knowledge of the holy i.e. of the wisdom of God contained in your Bible. Wisdom is understanding God's spiritual truth and applying it in your lives to the best of your abilities.

Pro 4:7 Wisdom is the principal thing; therefore get wisdom: and with all thy getting **get understanding**.

Pro 16:16 How much better is it to get wisdom than gold! and **to get understanding** rather to be chosen than silver!

Pro 3:13 Happy is the man that findeth wisdom, and the man that **getteth understanding**.

Pro 3:14 For the merchandise of it is better than the merchandise of silver, and the gain thereof than fine gold.

Pro 3:15 She is more precious than rubies: and **all the things thou canst desire are not to be compared unto her.**

Pro 3:13 **Happy is the man** that findeth wisdom, and the man that getteth understanding.

Pro 3:14 For the merchandise of it is better than the merchandise of silver, and the gain thereof than fine gold.

Someone that finds wisdom and who gets understanding of God's wisdom, greatly rejoices knowing that we he has is more profitable than silver and fine gold as it fulfills Christ's requirements for all Christians to grow the talent(s) (knowledge and understanding of God's truth) received at the time of their calling and in this way be sealed for the resurrection to eternal life.

Let's now see if we can come to understand the great mystery of Christ and the Church. As always, the Bible will be the means to do so, not the writings of any of the great variety of the world's religious groups. The world as a whole is unconverted (Rev 12:9); salvation has yet to be opened to mankind generally. That time will be during the Millennium and the Last Great Day (Joe 2:28; John 7:37-38).

The Great Mystery

Let's now go through Eph 5:21-33.

Eph5:21 Submitting yourselves one to another in the fear of God.

Christians are to submit one to another as in doing so they are obeying (fearing) God. But, under what circumstances are they to do so? Christians are not to just submit to other Christians as there is no reason for them to do so. Christians are to submit to each other only under specific circumstances and the one about which Paul wishes to speak is that of a man and a woman in marriage.

Eph 5:22 Wives, submit yourselves unto your own husbands, as unto the Lord.

Paul makes it clear that wives are to submit themselves to their *own* husbands; not to every and any man. God has ordained that there be a governmental or authority structure in marriage where a wife is to be in submission to her husband. More will be said on this matter which has been a matter of great controversy since Adam and Eve walked the earth.

God performed the first wedding in the Garden of Eden. Adam, the first man and Eve the first woman were to replenish the earth by reproducing themselves. They were to be “fruitful and multiply.” But first, God blessed them; He married them and we will see why in the following paragraphs.

Gen 1:28 And God blessed them, and God said unto them, **Be fruitful, and multiply, and replenish the earth**, and subdue it: and have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over every living thing that moveth upon the earth.

We know that the way for Adam and Eve and all human beings to be fruitful and multiply is to have sex. There is no other way of producing other human beings even in our scientifically advanced world. However, engaging in sex outside of marriage is absolutely forbidden. All you have to do is read through Lev 18 where you will find a long list of prohibited sexual conducts and Lev 20:10-21 where we read about various types of sexual immoralities and their punishment. In Deu 22: 13-30 and in Num 5:11-31 we are provided with still more information on sexual morality and the punishments for different transgressions.

The picture that emerges very clearly from all these Bible verses is that unless a man is married to a woman or a woman to a man, there is an absolute interdiction to engage in sex, period. This is why God married the first man and the first woman.

In Eph5:23 we are told why wives are to submit to their own husbands.

Eph 5:23 For the husband is the head of the wife, even as Christ is the head of the church: and he is the saviour of the body.

God has made the husband, the head of the wife in the same way that He made Christ the head of the Church.

Christ did not appoint Himself the head of the Church nor did husbands make themselves the heads of their wives; God did. So, women in marriage, in obedience (fear of) to God, are to submit to their husbands; not rule over them. This is what Paul was talking about in Eph 5: 21.

Not everyone or anyone in God's church can be its head if they personally chose to do so. There is only one head as ordained by God the Father and that is Christ, His son who is the saviour of the body; that is, the means whereby the body came into being and continues to exist.

In Colossians 1:16-18 it is clear that all things were created by Christ.

Col 1:16 For by him were all things created, that are in heaven, and that are in earth, visible and invisible, whether they be thrones, or dominions, or principalities, or powers: all things were created by him, and for him:

Col 1:17 And he is before all things, and by him all things consist.

All things are maintained in existence by Christ, “.....by him all things consist.” This universe will cease to exist when Christ creates a new heaven and a new earth after the Great White Throne Judgment which occurs at the end of the Last Great Day.

2Pe3:10 But the **day of the Lord** will come as a thief in the night; in the which the heavens shall pass away with a great noise, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat, the earth also and the works that are therein shall be burned up.

Rev 21:1 And I saw a new heaven and a new earth: for the first heaven and the first earth were passed away; and there was no more sea.

I would like here to bring to your attention that the “day of the Lord” mentioned in 2Pe3:10 is not **the Lord's day** mentioned in Rev 1:10 and which begins in Rev 8. That day is the time when God begins to intervene in the affairs of men and which comes to a close in Rev 16 with

the pouring of the 7 vial plagues which complete the wrath of God (Rev 16:17). Please note that the time when *this day of the Lord occurs* is when "...the heavens shall pass away with a great noise, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat, the earth also and the works that are therein shall be burned up. (2Pe3:10). It is the time after the Great White Throne Judgment at the end of the Last Great Day when the new heaven and the new earth are created (Rev 21:1).

Now going back to our review of Eph 5.

In Eph 5: 23 we read that Christ is the Saviour of the body which is to say that it is by He having been God the Father's perfect sacrifice for sin and by His work as the holy spirit God the Word and Spokesman who teaches all things to the holy spirit God the Father's called, chosen and faithful ones, that it is possible for God's Church to have come into being and to continue to exist. This is done by God the Father imputing Christ's righteousness to all true Christians (Gal 2:16) who have repented, believed (Mark 1:15) and are remaining faithful (Rev 17:14). Therefore, Christ is the head of the body which is God's Church as is plainly stated in Col 1:18.

Col 1:18 And he is **the head of the body, the church**: who is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead; that in all things he might have the preeminence.

Christ is the head or the highest in authority in God's Church which is essentially a spiritual organism or entity made up of only those who have been called, chosen and are remaining faithful wherever they may be on the earth, by themselves or in little scattered groups, organized or not. God's church is the little flock invisible to the world whose members are distributed across the different nations of the world. God who is the highest in authority has made Christ the head of the body in the same way that as the highest in authority, He has made a husband the head of his wife.

Wives are to submit to their own husbands as the church is to submit to Christ. In other words, when a wife voluntarily and willingly submits to her husband because of her desire to comply with the order ordained by God in marriage, she is being subject to Christ and God the Father.

Eph 5:24 Therefore as the church is subject unto Christ, so let the wives be to their own husbands in every thing.

Then in Ephesians 25, God turns His attention to husbands and what He expects of them.

Eph 5:25 Husbands, love your wives, even as Christ also loved the church, and gave himself for it;

Christ accepted to become a man born of woman and subject to the second death to become God the Father's perfect sacrifice for sin to make sure His plan of salvation for mankind. In doing so He accepted to be beaten and crucified which is a horribly painful death.

Husbands are but men with all the frailties of the flesh unlike Christ who was fully God and fully man and who even then, found it so difficult to go through the sufferings of the cross that He almost faltered (Mat 26:39). His perfect obedience to His Father is to serve as a guide and reference point for husbands in their interactions with their wives.

Eph 5:26 That he might sanctify and cleanse it with the washing of water by the word,

Eph 5:27 That he might present it to himself a glorious church, not having spot, or wrinkle, or any such thing; but that it should be holy and without blemish.

Christ suffered and died to make it possible for men upon belief, repentance and enduring faithfulness to have their sins forgiven and be set apart (sanctified) from other unconverted men for the purpose of growing in knowledge, understanding and in the perfect obedience of Christ as much as it is possible for a human being. Husbands are to love their wives as Christ loved the church.

Eph 5:28 So ought men to love their wives as their own bodies. He that loveth his wife loveth himself.

Eph 5:29 For no man ever yet hated his own flesh; but nourisheth and cherisheth it, even as the Lord the church:

Eph 5:30 For we are members of his body, of his flesh, and of his bones.

Eph 5:31 For this cause shall a man leave his father and mother, and shall be joined unto his wife, and they two shall be one flesh.

Husband are to love their wives as they love their own bodies because in marriage, they become one flesh or a new organism similar to the human body which is made up of many parts but where each part is not the body. Each member of the body does not constitute the body, it is

all members together that constitute the body (1Co12:14).

A man and a woman in marriage are also like the body of Christ, God's Church which is made up of several members but which is one body, one organism, one entity. Christ is the head of the body, the church and a husband is the head of his wife. Men and women before marriage were subject to their parents and through this authority structure, the male and female children of the parents along with the parents constituted a family. In the absence of any authority structure, it is not possible to have several beings act as one or to have them collaboratively work toward the achievement of specific and common goals. Group cohesion and focus are maintained through an authority structure of one kind or another; otherwise, everyone is going in a direction of their own choosing pursuing their own interests and goals.

Eph 5:32 This is a great mystery: but I speak concerning Christ and the church.

In Eph 5:32 Paul then tells us why he has been talking about Christians submitting to one another in the fear of the Lord, of Christ being the Head of the Church and, of the husband being the head of his wife. All these things that God has been telling us about the respective roles of Christ and the Church, and of husbands and wives have a broader application than marriage.

Actually, God is providing us with information about the organization and functioning of His Kingdom which is a great mystery to the world.

This mystery is something that has been left for truly converted Christians to discover as they study their Bible. The holy spirit God the Word and Spokesman teaches all things to *individuals* in God's Church (John 14:26; 1John 2:27; John 6:45). *The Church as a whole is not taught by Christ, it is each and every individual member who is taught by Christ as he studies his Bible.*

Paul ends his message to the Ephesian congregations and to all true Christians by saying that husbands are to have the greatest respect for their wives in assuming their roles as head of their wives and that wives need to ensure they respect their husband's role as their head.

Eph 5:33 Nevertheless let every one of you in particular so love his wife even as himself; and the wife see that she reverence her husband.

Wives are to submit to their husbands as Christ is in submission to His Father and the Church is in submission to Christ. In doing so, two be-

come one (the husband and the wife), and many, the church and Christ, become one. The truly converted in submitting to Christ become one group or church, God's Church.

The Human Body and the Body of Christ

We have seen that a man and a woman in marriage become one flesh not literally but through the authority structure instituted by God in marriage. In a like manner, a husband and a wife with their children become one family providing their children are in submission to them.

The unity or oneness that exists in marriage and in a family is because of the authority given by God to a husband over his wife and of the parents over their children. The basic and essential requirement for 2 or more to be one is given us in Amos 3:3.

Amo 3:3 Can two walk together, except they be agreed?

What is it they have to agree on? They have to agree that one will be the leader and that the other(s) will submit to the leader. Without a clear and mutually-agreed upon authority structure, in any group no matter how small, it is impossible for oneness to exist. Additionally, as we have just been reviewing, Christ is the head of each and every member of God's Church. He is not the head of an overall entity called the Church but of each and every individual members who collectively make up the Church. It is by individual Christians submitting to Christ that God's Church exists not by men submitting to other men who claim to be faithful representatives of God's truth.

In 1Cor 12:12-27 we are given another example of how many different parts with different functions exist as one. I will not quote all the verses which you can read on your own except 1Cor 12:12; 14 and 27 which provide the overall context of the verses in between these verses.

1Co 12:12 For as the body is one, and hath many members, and all the members of that one body, being many, are one body: so also is Christ.

Here God is telling us that the human body is made up of many parts but that each part by itself is not a body; it is all the parts together that constitutes the body.

This thought is perfectly expressed in the following verses:

1Co 12:14 For the body is not one member, but many.

1Co 12:27 Now ye are the body of Christ, and members in particular.

In 1Co 12:12-27, an extended comparison is being made between the body of Christ, God's Church which is made of many different members or individuals and the human body created by God the Word which is also made of many different parts. The human body though consisting of a very great number of different parts with different purposes in the body: the eyes to see, the mouth to eat, the ears to hear, the nose to smell, etc. is a single body, not many bodies.

In a similar manner the body of Christ, God's Church though made up of many different members/individuals who do not all have the same responsibilities and authority in the the body of Christ, all constitute one body in the same way the different parts of a human body are not many bodies but one body.

No matter the purpose of the different organs of a human body, whether considered to be important or not, they are all essential parts of the body as God created it. And, in the body of Christ whatever the level of responsibility and authority of individual members and regardless of how important or unimportant they may seem to be, they all are important members or parts of the body of Christ.

What is it that makes the many parts of a human body one body and not many bodies? It is the unbreakable laws that determine the role of each parts of the human body. Each part of the body has a function to perform which doesn't change over time, which is not interchangeable with that of other parts of the body and which complements the functionality of other parts of the body. In eating for example, the nose, eyes, mouth and hands all work together.

What about the Kingdom of God, how does it exist now and will it have a different way of existence in the future at the end of God's plan of salvation for mankind when an untold number of human beings will have become glorified spirit beings following their resurrection from the dead?

The Family and the Kingdom of God

God's Kingdom is currently composed of 2 immortal, holy spirit beings who have existed eternally: God and the Word.

Joh 1:1 In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.

God's Kingdom is a family presently consisting of God the Father and Christ His Son but many more members are to be added to this family. Christ, the Word made flesh, at His First Coming told us who are His brothers, sisters and mother, spiritually speaking. He had a physical mother and physical brothers, actually they were His stepbrothers because Christ was begotten by God the Father in Mary's womb, not by Joseph. Mat 12:46-50 makes it clear who are Christ's spiritual family members.

Mat 12:46 While he [Jesus] yet talked to the people, behold, his mother [Mary] and his brethren [Her sons by Joseph and Christ's stepbrothers] stood without, desiring to speak with him.

Mat 12:47 Then one said unto him, Behold, thy mother and thy brethren stand without, desiring to speak with thee.

Mat 12:48 But he answered and said unto him that told him, Who is my mother? and who are my brethren?

Mat 12:49 And he stretched forth his hand toward his disciples, and said, Behold my mother and my brethren!

Mat 12:50 For whosoever shall do the will of my Father which is in heaven, the same is my brother, and sister, and mother.

Christ, the Son of God, who temporarily became a man born of woman was saying that those who would be His brother, sister and mother in God's Kingdom are those who do the will of His Father. Therefore, God's Kingdom is to grow from 2 beings to many more who will be in a family relationship with God the Father. In other words, God's Kingdom is a family to which will be added all those that do the will of God the Father while human beings on this earth. There will be many more than 2 beings in God's Kingdom at the end of God's plan of salvation for mankind.

Authority in God's Kingdom

In the book of Revelation we learn that Christ is Lord of lords and King of kings.

Rev 17:14 These shall make war with the Lamb, and the Lamb shall overcome them: for he is Lord of lords, and King of kings: and they that are with him are called, and chosen, and faithful.

Rev 19:16 And he hath on his vesture and on his thigh a name written, KING OF KINGS, AND LORD OF LORDS.

Who are the kings and lords over which Christ will be King and Lord? Are

they the kings and lords or rulers of this world? In our modern days our kings and lords are presidents and prime ministers. Whatever name may be used to refer to rulers, they all are individuals who hold the power to rule over others. In this world, we have individuals who under a supreme leader hold different levels of authority and use it on the behalf of the supreme ruler to enforce his will over others. The kings, lords and rulers of this world for the very greatest part are not truly converted Christians.

Christ very clearly tells us in a verse that needs no interpretation that many are called but few are chosen.

Mat 22:14 For many are called, but few are chosen.

And, that of the few chosen, few remain faithful.

Mat 7:13 Enter ye in at the strait gate: for wide is the gate, and broad is the way, that leadeth to destruction, and many there be which go in therat:

Unfortunately, sadly and quite contrarily to what is preached by many of the religious organizations of this world, it is not the many, if you will believe the clear words of your Bible, that will become and remain truly converted.

And what does God say about the unconverted.

Rom 8:14 For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, they are the sons of God.

Those who are the sons of God are only those who voluntarily and without being forced to do so in any way, accept to be led by the holy spirit God the Word and Spokesman. God will not force anyone to become converted or to remain converted. God commanded ancient Israel to choose life or death.

Deu 30:19 I call heaven and earth to record this day against you, that I have set before you life and death, blessing and cursing: therefore choose life, that both thou and thy seed may live:

This verse is fully applicable to New Testament spiritual nation of Israel who are all those that have been called and chosen by God the Father.

God has ordained that man must choose and for man to be able to choose there must be no power in heaven or on earth that can force him to choose somethings contrary to his will. Otherwise, man would have

no freedom to choose. God urges man to choose life but should he not choose it, He will not force him to do so and if after having chosen life, he should choose death, God will not prevent him from doing so.

Heb 6:4 For it is impossible for those who were once enlightened, [\[were called and chosen\]](#) and have tasted of the heavenly gift, and were made partakers of the Holy Ghost,

Heb 6:5 And have tasted the good word of God, and the powers of the world to come, [\[endured in their calling for a time\]](#)

Heb 6:6 If they shall fall away, [\[make the knowing and willful decision to no longer obey God\]](#) to renew them again unto repentance; seeing they crucify to themselves the Son of God afresh, and put him to an open shame.

It is impossible to renew them unto repentance because they have become as spiritually blind as they were before their conversion. They cannot be convinced to return to a faith they don't believe they have forsaken. Their spiritual blindness is complete and unchangeable by anyone and not even God will do so for man must be free to choose. Being free to chose, He is then fully responsible for the consequences of his decisions.

It is clear and sad that it is the few of this world who will become and remain converted until the end of their human lives. Even when God gives access to all mankind to the holy spirit God the Word and Spokesman (Joel2:28) during the Millennium and the Last Great Day, it will be the few that will become and remain converted. Please see the following study for a detailed fully Bible-based explanation of what will happen during the Millennium and the Last Great Day: [The Millennium God's Kingdom on Earth?](#)

Considering what has just been explained, would it be reasonable to believe that Christ will rule over the kings and lords of this world and over the populations of this world who to a very great extent will be unconverted even though during the Millennium and the Last Great Day all will have been called (Joel 2:28). Not all called out persons become converted; many choose to remain in the world and many return into the world after having followed their calling for a time.

Then who are the kings and the lords that Christ will rule over?

A king or a lord generally speaking is one who is given the authority to rule over a greater or lesser number of individuals. In the resurrection, God's

called and chosen ones who will become part of God's Kingdom are to be rewarded according to their works.

This is what the parable of the talents shows. At the time of our calling we all received a certain number of talents which varies from individuals to individuals. The "talents" in the parable represent the knowledge we received at the time of our calling. We are all given the same command, we must grow the talent(s) we have received; those who don't lose their salvation.

Mat 25:30 And cast ye the unprofitable servant into outer darkness: there shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth.

And, as we can see as we read through the parable, those who grew the original talents give them were rewarded according to their works. They were given to rule over different number of cities in accordance with the level of growth they had achieved. However, we know that Christ spoke in parables to hide the true meaning of what He said from the crowds that followed him (Matt 13:10-12). The number of talents represent different levels of growth in knowledge of God's truth and the number of cities, represent the different levels of authority that individuals with different levels of growth will have in God's Kingdom. Not everyone will receive the same reward or level of authority.

Neither God nor those in the First Resurrection at the time of Christ's 2nd Coming are to forcefully rule over the unconverted nations of this world or its kings and lords. God will only rule over those that knowingly and willingly submit to Him after having been called (Rom 8:7; 14). So, again, who are the kings and lords that Christ will rule over?

They are those who will become part of God's Kingdom at the time of its establishment at the end of God's plan of salvation for mankind. The saved based on their works (growth in knowledge and understanding of the portion of truth received at their calling) will be given levels of authority proportional to the growth they have had. They will be the kings and lords over which Christ will be the King of kings and Lord of lords.

In God's Kingdom there will exist a very great and detailed hierarchy of authority that will include all members of God's Kingdom. In the same way there exists in the body of every human beings a complex and unbreakable authority structure established by God which makes it possible for the billions of cells in a human body to all work in cooperation with each other. These billions of cells with different functions in the human body constitute not billions of body but one body. God's kingdom will be made up of many different holy spirit beings with powers of creation with-

in an authority structure established by God which will result in the many members of God's Kingdom being one body, the body of Christ headed up by Christ under the supreme authority of God.

Man Woman Marriage Family Nation Kingdom

We can now start to put together the different pieces of information given us in the Bible and come to see what is the great mystery of Christ and the Church.

Mankind, men and women, (Gen 1:27) were created according to the image and the likeness of God and the Word (Gen 1:26).

Gen 1:26 And God said, Let **us** make man in **our** image, after **our** likeness: and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over the cattle, and over all the earth, and over every creeping thing that creepeth upon the earth.

Gen 1:27 So God created man in his own image, in the image of God created he him; male and female created he them.

The bodies and minds of human beings are structured according to, and in the likeness of God and the Word.

Men and women are to marry and have families (children); they are to "be fruitful, multiply and replenish the earth."

Gen 1:28 And God blessed them, and God said unto them, Be fruitful, and multiply, and replenish the earth, and subdue it: and have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over every living thing that moveth upon the earth.

A husband and his wife become one and their children constitute a new unit called a family where the parents are to exercise authority over them to teach them the moral and civil laws they must follow to live peaceful and profitable lives with other members of society. Many families form wider social groups such as villages which grown big become cities and where many cities on a given territory become a nation.

All these societal units share one thing and that is that their existence depends on knowing and following laws that define how they are organized and the relationships that are to exist among them. Anciently, nations were headed up by kings and the nations they ruled over were referred to as being their kingdoms. The king of the kingdom made the laws and enforced them through subordinates to whom he delegated

some of his authority for them to represent him when carrying out their law enforcement duties.

God has a kingdom and He is its supreme ruler (John 14:28; quoted below). His Kingdom is presently made up of one other being, the Word (John 1:1). God is the lawmaker (Jas 4:12; Isa 33:22) and all judgment has been given over to the Word (John 5:22).

Joh 1:1 In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.

Jas 4:12 There is **one lawgiver**, who is able to save and to destroy: who art thou that judgest another?

Isa 33:22 For the LORD [the Word] is our judge (John 5:22), the LORD is our lawgiver (God; James 4:12), the LORD [**God**] is our king (John 14:28); he will save us.

Joh 14:28 Ye have heard how I said unto you, I go away, and come again unto you. If ye loved me, ye would rejoice, because I said, I go unto the Father: **for my Father is greater than I.**

Joh 5:22 For the Father judgeth no man, but hath committed all judgment unto the Son:

God's Kingdom has laws and an authority structure where God is the highest in authority in the Kingdom (John 14:28) and where the Word is under the authority of God. All those coming into God's Kingdom will be given levels of authority in accordance with their works of obedience in this life according to the Parable of the talents (Mat 25:14-30) and the parable of the pounds (Luke 19:11-27)). In God's church which is made up of all those called, chosen and faithful wherever located in the world, by themselves or in organized groups, we find that it is God who determines who will have what responsibilities/authority in the body of Christ.

1Co 12:12 For as the body is one, and hath many members, and all the members of that one body, being many, are one body: **so also is Christ. [the body of Christ; God's Church (Col 1: 18)]**

1Co 12:18 But now hath God set the members every one of them in the body, **as it hath pleased him.**

From 1Co 12: 12 to 1Co 12:27 we see an extended comparison being made between the human body and the body of Christ, the Church. As one is organized and structured according to laws established by God so is the other. The human body is a physical-level parallel of the spiritual body of Christ, God's Church and God's Church is a physical-level parallel of the Kingdom of God.

The different parts of a human body have specific and different functions as established by God through the unbreakable laws that govern their functioning. In the body of Christ, there are many members or individuals who are given by God to have certain responsibilities and authority (1Co12:18), and members altogether, constitute one body not several ones.

The physical human body in its organization and functioning is like the body of Christ, God's Church in that all parts are necessary, all parts function according to laws instituted by God and all parts, in their great diversity constitute one body.

In a similar way, all members of God's Kingdom will have authority and responsibilities allocated to them by God in a great and complex authority structure as exists among the many and different parts of the human body.

A man and a woman in marriage are made one by the authority structure placed in it by God. A husband and his wife and their children are made one family by the children being in submission to their parents. God and the Word are one kingdom by the Word being in submission to God and the many members of God's Kingdom, once it is fully set up at the end of God's plan of salvation for mankind, will be one kingdom by all its members being in submission to God.

This is the great mystery of which Paul was talking about in Eph 5:21 -32. God is not the author of confusion and for order to exist, there has to be laws. God has laws for marriage, family, His Church and basically all of His physical and spiritual creation. It is impossible to conceive of many being one without laws that all have to follow. In God's kingdom, all will perfectly follow God's law and constitute one kingdom where every member will be given by God different levels of authority and responsibility according to their works.

The common thread that makes it possible for many to become one is an authority structure which defines the relationships that are to exist among the different parts of a physical living organism such as a human

being and among the members of God's earthly spiritual organism, His Church, the body of Christ.

The oneness that exists in a Godly marriage and in a Godly family mirrors and illustrates how God, the Word and all those who will become part of God's Kingdom after the Great White Throne Judgment, though being many, will constitute one kingdom. All will be set in God's Kingdom as it pleases God and in accordance with their works of obedience in this life. Salvation is by grace but the rewards of the saved will be in accordance with their works.

Rev 20:12 And I saw the dead, small and great, stand before God; and the books were opened: and another book was opened, which is the book of life: and the dead were judged out of those things which were written in the books, **according to their works.**

Rev 20:13 And the sea gave up the dead which were in it; and death and hell delivered up the dead which were in them: and they were judged every man **according to their works.**

Conclusion

In God's Kingdom there will be a vast and complex authority structure in which the many and different members of the Kingdom will be given positions of responsibility and authority. The parables of the talents and of the pounds allow us to understand that the reward of the saved will vary according to their works and that that reward is to have different levels of authority in God's Kingdom.

In the book of Hebrews we learn that the saved are to bear rule over the new earth and the new heaven that will be created after the Great White Throne Judgment.

Heb 2:6 But one in a certain place testified, saying, What is man, that thou art mindful of him? or the son of man, that thou visitest him?

Heb 2:7 Thou madest him a little lower than the angels; thou crownedst him with glory and honour, and didst set him over the works of thy hands:

Heb 2:8 Thou hast put all things in subjection under his feet. For in that he put all in subjection under him, he left nothing that is not put under him. But **now we see not yet all things put under him.**

This will occur once God's Kingdom is fully established after the Great White Throne Judgment when God creates the new heaven and the new earth.

Rev 21:1 And I saw a new heaven and a new earth: for the first heaven and the first earth were passed away; and there was no more sea.

God's Kingdom once fully formed with its many and varied members will function like the many and diverse parts of a human body. It will be a single spiritual organism made up of several different parts to which God will have allocated responsibilities and different levels of authority. Though composed of a great variety of individuals it will function as a single organism through the distribution of responsibilities determined by God. All members of God's Kingdom will be in perfect submission to God as the Word has always been.

God and the Word, God and the saved, a husband and his wife, the parents and their children, families making up villages, towns, cities and nations all are made one by their knowing and willing participation in an authority structure. This is how many families become a village, many villages become cities and towns, and many cities and towns become nations or kingdoms under a single ruler who nowadays are Presidents and Prime Ministers who anciently were kings.

This is the oneness that has forever existed in the Godhead and that will exist forever in God's Kingdom upon its completion at the end of God's plan of salvation for mankind.

It is the great mystery of Christ and the Church where the church's many members are one body under Christ, the head of the body and where, the many members of God's Kingdom will also constitute one body headed up by Christ under the supreme authority of God the Father who is the Most High in the kingdom.

Post Script

One last comment which needs to be made as I'm sure there are some of you reading this study who are thinking that it's not going to be very pleasant to be part of God's Kingdom. Their thinking that the saved are going to be like slaves working at different tasks assigned by God without any possibility of engaging in other types of activities which they would find more pleasant.

Is this how things are going to be?

God and the Word created man in their image and according to their likeness. They put a spirit essence in man (1Co2:11) which gives the human brain mind power and they gave man absolute free moral agency i.e., there is no power in heaven or on earth that can force someone to believe something against his will (Deu 30:19). God and the Word have mind power and created beings who also have mind power and the freedom to make decisions for the purpose of having them become part of God's Kingdom.

Having an attitude of obedience to God does not cancel out the ability to think or to have personal likes and dislikes. God and the Word can think their own thoughts and have their own likes, dislikes, preferences, etc. in the same way men created in their image can. Men have emotions because God has emotions. God can get angry, be displeased, be happy, be disappointed, etc. which is why men created in his image and likeness can experience the same range of emotions.

If God simply wanted mindless beings with no power to make decisions and choices to populate His Kingdom, it would not have been necessary for Christ to die as the perfect sacrifice for sin. Beings without mind power and decision making ability cannot sin in the same way that all the animals created by God, except man, cannot sin. Animals can make good companions to human beings but they cannot relate to a human being as humans can to other humans. In God's Kingdom, the saved will fully share in the nature of God, and God and the Word will thus be able to fully relate to them as they do to each other. God and the Word want other beings like themselves in their kingdom. A man on a desert island even if surrounded by friendly animals, is still alone as God and the Word would be if their kingdom were to be made up of beings without independent mind power and decision making ability.

The saved in God's Kingdom will continue to be able to be the persons they were as mortal beings but they will then possess perfect holy righteous character like God. They will then no longer suffer from the weaknesses of their flesh and will no longer sin.

The saved will eternally be occupied in creative works under the direction of God and the Word with the freedom to use their creation powers in original ways to perform the tasks requested by God. There will also be much joyful fellowship with God and the Word and among themselves. The many different personalities of the saved will mix and match with each other and with God and the Word making it a continuously interesting time for all.

There will be unity regarding fulfilling the tasks assigned by God but

the saved will maintain their individual abilities to think and enjoy different things based on their personalities, personal tastes, affinities, etc. The saved will continue to have independent mind power and freedom to choose and be able to form their own opinions, make their own judgments, delight in some things and not in others depending on the very great variety of personalities and characters made possible by God Himself in human beings created after His own likeness and image. In the resurrection, the saved will not lose who and what they were in this world with this major difference that they will no longer be able to sin. God wants other beings with whom He can interact as He does with the Word.

An applicable physical analogy is that of an army where there is unity in accomplishing tasks but where every members, those in authority and those over whom authority is exercised, continue to be individuals with their own mind capabilities which they use in conducting their personal lives.

If God's Kingdom were to consist of mindless beings or of mind-controlled beings losing their individuality and personality, there would have been no need for God to have a plan of salvation. He could simply have created as many of these beings as He would have wanted but without independent mind power, thinking ability, personality and individuality, He would still have been all alone in the universe.

