



## PRIMARY BOOK

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“We are one in Christ.” (Galatians 3:28)

# **CHAPTER 1**

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## **ONE BODY WITH MANY MEMBERS**



**“We are one in Christ.” (Galatians 3:28)**

## **CHAPTER 1: ONE BODY WITH MANY MEMBERS**

### **Scripture**

**1 Corinthians 12:12-14** - 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 by one Spirit we were all baptized into one body -- Jews or Greeks, slaves or free -- and all were made to drink of one Spirit. For the body does not consist of one member but of many.

### **Lesson**

One day a baker awakes to hear arguing in the kitchen. The ingredients for his famous chocolate chip cookies were arguing about who was the best. “The only reason the cookies taste good is because I taste so good,” said the chocolate chips. “I give the cookies the shape,” said the flour. “They’re so sweet because of me” said the sugar. After listening to the arguing to a few moments the baker said; “by yourselves you don’t become a cookie. I am the one who brings the ingredients together to form the cookies. None of you are better than the other. You are all needed to make a good cookie.”

This is also true for us. Each one of us has different and special gifts and talents. Some of us can sing and some can spread God’s word. Trying to use our gifts alone doesn’t really work. A choir only sounds good when the people all work together to sing well. We need other people’s gifts and talents and other people need our gifts and talents. God made us to be together like different parts of the same body. This is why God has created us in a family and given us friends. That is also why we belong to a larger family – the Church.

When Paul writes this he is saying that just as a body is made up of many parts, the Church, which is Christ’s body, is made up of each of us. As Christians we are one body; we make up the body of Christ. We serve different purposes in the church but together with Christ we are all one. All churches have people that make the service complete. It would be nearly impossible to conduct the Holy Qurbana if the Priest was not present or if the altar servers were not there to assist Priest. Just like them, the people in the church also have a role in worship.

It is important to remember that we are one in Christ and each of us has a role in the Church. Just like the ingredients that make a good cookie, we are the ingredients that make up the Church.

**“We are one in Christ.” (Galatians 3:28)**

ACTIVITY 1:

- 1.) Draw a body part.
- 2.) What are its functions? (What does it do?)
- 3.) Can this body part function by itself? Why or why not?

Have all the kids try to make a body out of the parts that they drew.

- 1.) What body part is missing? Are there too many of one part?
- 2.) What activities would be hard to do without the missing parts?
- 3.) Why is unity in the body so important?

ACTIVITY 2:

To prepare, write parts of the body on individual slips of paper and hand them out to the children. Start with main parts of the body such as face, arms, left leg, right leg, right foot, left foot, right hand, left hand, right eyes, left eyes, nose, and etc. Once each child is given a piece of paper, instruct them to approach other children and say their body part, like the following:

Hi, I'm head

Hi, I'm mouth

Hi, I'm right eye

Hi, I'm left eye

Hi, I'm right hand

Hi, I'm left hand

Hi, I'm right leg

Hi, I'm left leg

Hi, I'm right foot

And so on...

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Separate each child or group them according to their body part (e.g. hands in one group and feet in another).

Assign a job to each one of them. For example,

Legs – walk somewhere

Hands – hold onto something

Nose – something to smell

Mouth – something to eat

Eyes – something to look at (e.g. read a book),

And so on...

Now switch the job (not the body parts), where the feet is now given the eye's task to read. The children would slowly realize that this is not possible.

Explain to the children that one part of the body can't do something it wasn't assigned to do by God, the Creator. . Just like God has assigned each part of the body to do a special job, we are all assigned with a special job. Being one in Christ means that we are part of his body, and Jesus Christ has a special role for us to play as members of his body, the Church.. We have to pray and find out job God has given you to do and do it.

Do you know we are a part of Jesus's body?

Some of us are his hands, his arms, his legs, his eyes, his ears, etc...

“We are one in Christ.” (Galatians 3:28)

## **CHAPTER 2**

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### **UNITY IN TRINITY**



**“We are one in Christ.” (Galatians 3:28)**

## **CHAPTER 2: UNITY IN TRINITY**

### **Lesson**

It is a hard task to fully understand the Trinity. St Augustine said, “Anyone who denies the Trinity is in danger of losing his salvation, and anyone who tries to understand it is in danger of losing his mind.” We have some examples that may help us to understand the idea of the Trinity.

Imagine you are going down a three lane highway. There are two lanes along with the one that you are in. You are going in the same direction as the other two lanes. You are all travelling to a destination in the same route. The lanes of the highway are different but regardless of which lane you are in you are on the same highway. The highway is one as is not differentiated by the lanes.

In the same way, the Trinity is one and not separated. In John 10:30 it says, “I and the Father are one.” The three lanes can be used to represent the Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Three persons in one God-head. Three lanes make one highway. In Mark 12:29 it says Jesus answered, “The first is, Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one.”

Like the highway, the Trinity works in the same manner. The Father makes the plan. Jesus Christ, His Son, came down from heaven to fulfill God’s plan. The Holy Spirit is with us each day to help us fulfill God’s plan.

Here is a small prayer to the Holy trinity to memorize:

“The Father is my hope. The Son is my refuge. The Holy Spirit is my protection. Holy Trinity, glory to You!”

### **Notes to Teachers:**

Ask the children if they understand the lesson, as the Trinity is a tough concept to grasp. Ask them to think of other examples that may help to clarify the idea of the Trinity.

Common ones used are:

Apple – skin, fruit and core

Sun – the sun representing the Father, its light represent the Son and its heat represents the Holy Spirit.

Braided Hair – three strands, but it is all hair



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## **CHAPTER 3**

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UNITED IN LOVE



## CHAPTER 3: UNITED IN LOVE

**Teaching Objective:** Understand that God made people different but loves them all; therefore we should love everyone as children of God.

**Prayer (suggested content):** Offer thanks, ask for wisdom, and teach us how to love

**Scripture Verse for Lesson:** Colossians 2:2 "... that their hearts may be encouraged, knit together in love..."

Discovery: Turn to the person next to you and name 3 things that are different between you and him/her (e.g. physical characteristics, personal favorites (i.e. color, food, TV show, hobby, etc).

Name 3 things that are the same (e.g. church, family structure, age, race, etc).

### Lesson

(This activity should bring to their attention that we are each made uniquely, but are ultimately one body with one faith and one Lord)

We need to recognize that God, as Creator, is "creative" also in the sense that he made us unique. We can see this in the differences between each individual. But we must also be willing to appreciate those differences, and not use them as stumbling blocks to our relationships. Explain to the children that it is God who created and gave life to all of us, so He is our Father and we are all children of God. With this understanding, we must learn to love others as our brothers and sisters and respect them the way God made them.

God made people with different personalities, physical characteristics, capabilities, talents, roles, etc. But He loves all of His creation equally, no matter how we think of each other. Unfortunately, in the world we live in today, people always find a way to divide from each other (i.e. race, class, disabilities). Christ's desire for his family, however, is to be united in love. Christ came to the world to bring together a whole people - as a people of God, our Father. His love extended to those who were neglected and to those who were treated poorly. God's love is unconditional. Our identity as Christians will be reflected in our love for others and unity through Christ.

**Scripture (memory verse):** "A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another, as I have loved you, that you also love one another. By this all will know you are My disciples, if you have love for one another." (John 13: 34-35)

**Activity:** Collect picture cutouts from magazines, papers, etc and create a collage

Try to find varied images of persons found in the Church, school, and neighborhood settings

**Song:** We are One in the Spirit, We are One in the Lord

**Concluding Prayer**

# CHAPTER 4

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UNITED TO HONOR GOD



## **CHAPTER 4: UNITED TO HONOR GOD**

**Teaching Objective:** People can accomplish things when they are unified with a purpose, but we must evaluate if their intention is God-honoring.

**Prayer:** Offer thanks → request wisdom → ask that His will be our will in all things and that our unity be used for the good of His Kingdom

**Scripture Reference:** Genesis 11:1-9, Tower of Babel

**Discovery:** Recall the story of Noah and God’s command to his family to be fruitful, increase in number, and fill the earth. But man had different plans—to stay in one place and build a city for themselves.

At this time, the people all spoke one language and decided to settle in a city called Shinar. They became skilled in construction and started to build a tower that “would reach to the heavens”. They wanted to make a name for themselves and not be scattered over the face of the earth.

The Lord did not like the people’s plan because they intended to seek their own glory. He knew this achievement would actually steer them away from God, even though it was meant to be a stairway to heaven. So He found a way to block them from accomplishing this goal--- He confused their language so they would not understand each other and scattered them over all the earth. They could not build the city anymore and the tower became known as the Tower of Babel (sounds like the Hebrew word for confused).

Here we see the result of unity, but in a negative way. Their unity was not in line with God’s will, it was not healthy for their development as a people, and was destructive to their relationship with God. Although these people accomplished a great feat, their intentions were not pleasing to God. This tower was a symbol of man’s greatness, not an honor to God. When God’s people come together, we can achieve great things for His Kingdom if we focus on Him. We must remember to seek His glory, not our own. We must ask God to bless our initiatives.

### **Reflection:**

-Compare positive (Church initiatives, schools, team sports) and negative (bullying, war, etc) uses of unity.

- What ‘towers’ do we build in our lives that actually distance us from God?

**Memory Verse:** Ephesians 4: 13 (our goal as a unified body)

“... Till we all come to the unity of faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God to a perfect man, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ”

### **Concluding Prayer**

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