




from consumption to
COMMUNION

Romans 12:1–2  Page 1616

RECOMMENDED READING:

C.S. Lewis *The Weight of Glory*

Chapters: “Membership” and “The Inner Ring”



1 Peter 1:22-25

“Now that you have purified yourselves by obeying the truth unto sincere brotherly affection, **love one another fervently, from a pure heart.**”



There is no spirituality or love that is of Christ without membership and organic institution.

Love is expressed in covenants, institutions, hierarchy—because there is no real belonging without membership and institutions that are made not for consumption.



To facilitate fervent love in pure hearts:

**Christ makes us members of his body,
and his body an institution.**

(Only by making it organic can he make it concrete)



To facilitate fervent love in pure hearts:

**Membership in Christ is organic.
Christ's body is instituted.**



To facilitate fervent love in pure hearts:

1. MEMBERSHIP IN CHRIST IS ORGANIC.



ORGANIC

Not this



This



Organ- essentially different from each other, complimentary in a single body; differing in structure, function and dignity. It can only find its place, personality, and purpose by taking its place in the body.



Giant Barrel Sponge



“Individualist Collective”

The diversity that I like is welcome: that which is conducive to my pleasure, power, approval and comfort; to my consumption.



In Scripture “member” means “organ”

^{ESV} **Matthew 5:29**

“If your right eye causes you to sin, tear it out and throw it away. For it is better that you lose one of your members than that your whole body be thrown into hell.”

^{NIV} **Matthew 5:29**

“If your right eye causes you to stumble, gouge it out and throw it away. It is better for you to lose one part of your body than for your whole body to be thrown into hell.”



In Scripture “member” means “organ”

^{ESV} **Romans 7:5**

“For while we were living in the flesh, our sinful passions, aroused by the law, were at work in our members to bear fruit for death.”

^{NIV} **Romans 7:5**

“For when we were in the realm of the flesh, the sinful passions aroused by the law were at work in us, so that we bore fruit for death.”



In Scripture “member” means “organ”

Romans 12:4-5 ESV*

“For as in one body we have many members, and the members do not all have the same function, so we, though many, are one body in Christ, and individually members one of another.”

*Full sermon on this passage in a few weeks.



In Scripture “member” means “organ”

ESV **1 Corinthians 12:12**

“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.”

NIV **1 Corinthians 12:12**

“Just as a body, though one, has many parts, but all its many parts form one body, so it is with Christ.”



KEY CHARACTERISTICS:

1. Extreme difference
2. Harmonious union
3. Inescapable relations
4. Neuro-Sympathy



KEY APPLICATIONS:

1. Tenacious Solidarity
2. “Situated” identity



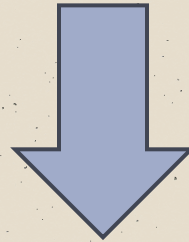
To facilitate fervent love in pure hearts:

2. Christ's body is instituted.



ORGANISMS MAKE INSTITUTIONS

Systems of organs make organisms



Cooperating organisms make institutions



ORGANISMS MAKE INSTITUTIONS



Institutions have structures
(like hierarchy, procedures and shelter)



CHURCH AS INSTITUTION

Matthew 16- “On this rock I will build my church...”

1 Tim 2, 1 Cor 8-14, Col 3- Instruction on worship

Acts 2- Structure to learning and fellowship

Rev 2-3- Speaking to churches and their leadership

1 Tim 3, 5, Titus 1- Qualifications for elders & their work

1 Cor 12:28, Eph 4:11- “God gave/appointed apostles...”

Acts 20- Charge to the elders

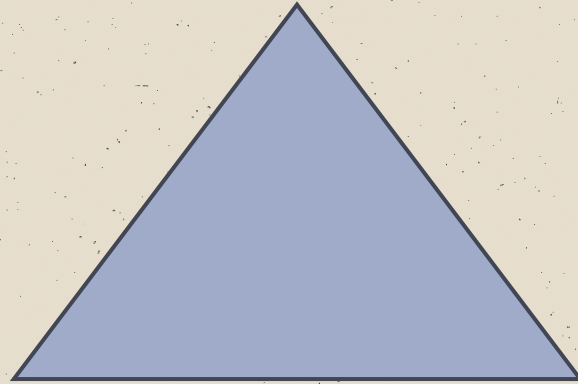
Acts 15- Jerusalem council

Titus 1:5- finish setting up churches and appoint elders



SKELETON-TENDONS-ORGANS

Saints
(Organs)



Church
Institution
(Skeleton)

Leaders
(Ligaments-
Eph. 4:16)



WHAT IS FAITH?

1. Take your place. Find your real identity
2. There is not abstract body of Christ
3. Lord's Supper and Membership matter
4. Tenacious solidarity is a pre-requisite for prevailing churches (and families)
5. Building institutions is spiritual (not eternal)
6. Leadership quality is critical
7. Organ-ship scales- HPC is an "organ"



