

ONE DAY BIBLE STUDY PROGRAM

Zion Prayer Fellowship, Chanamunda, Dist: Nuapada, Date: 05 April 2025

Speaker: Ps. Sahadev Nanda

The Importance of Church Fellowship

For the people of this world, *the church* might be seen as just a building—
a place they associate with Christians as a temple.
But in the light of truth, this description falls utterly short.
For in reality, the church is not a structure made of stone,
nor is it a shrine adorned with statues—
it is the living body of the Living God,
and its head is none other than the Lord Jesus Christ Himself.

As the Apostle Paul declares in *Ephesians 5:23*:

"Christ is the head of the church, and He is the Savior of the body."

In other words, Christ is the very life that keeps the body called the Church alive.

From this one line alone, we come to understand Jesus' role in the church—*He is the head,*
and without the head, the body cannot live.
Therefore, instead of discussing His role in detail,
let us focus more on *who makes up the body* of the church,
and *what the role of that body is*.

Who constitutes the body and how that body should live
has also been made clear to us by God through Apostle Paul.

As Paul says:

"We, though many, are one body" — 1 Corinthians 10:17

Here he speaks of that same body of which Christ is the Head—
Thus *we* are the body of the Church.

And we did not become the body by our own efforts,
but through the act that binds us together—
as written in *1 Corinthians 12:13*:

"For by one Spirit we were all baptized into one body—whether Jews or Greeks, slaves or free—and we were all given the one Spirit to drink."

And it is God's desire that we, being united,
remain in *fellowship with His Son, the Lord Jesus Christ*—
This is our *first and foremost calling*.

For Paul, filled with the Holy Spirit, declares:

"God is faithful, who has called you into fellowship with His Son, Jesus Christ our Lord." — 1 Corinthians 1:9

Hence, we must understand *why we gather in the church*.

Not to display our knowledge,
nor to show off our talents,
nor to boast in our piety,
nor to preach our own holiness.

We gather because *we are one body*,
and we seek fellowship with our Head—our Messiah.

For He Himself has joined us into this body,
as it is written in *1 Corinthians 12:18*:

"But in fact God has placed the parts in the body, every one of them, just as He wanted them to be."

From this we must realize that it was not by our own will that we joined the church,
but by Christ's deliberate and divine will.
And if He has joined me to this body,
then I must also value the fact that He has joined *others*—my brothers and sisters in the church.

Therefore, if they are precious in the sight of the Lord,
they must also be precious in *my* sight.
I must embrace them with *honor and respect*,
and never boast saying, "I am an important part of Christ's body and others are weak parts."

No! I must never think in this way,
because in God's eyes, *every part is equally valuable*.
For a body needs the ear just as much as the nose or the eye.

So let us not fall into the grave sin of considering anyone *less important or inferior*.
Instead, if anyone seems weak, let us give them *greater honor*
so that they may become strong.
This is our sacred duty.

Paul explains this truth in these words:

"If they were all one part, where would the body be? As it is, there are many parts, but one body. The eye cannot say to the hand, 'I don't need you!' And the head cannot say to the feet, 'I don't need you!' On the contrary, those parts of the body that seem to be weaker are indispensable, and the parts that we think are less honorable we treat with special honor. And the parts that are unpresentable are treated with special modesty."

"...But God has put the body together, giving greater honor to the parts that lacked it, so that there should be no division in the body, but that its parts should have equal concern for each other. If one part suffers, every part suffers with it; if one part is honored, every part rejoices with it. Now you are the body of Christ, and each one of you is a part of it."

— *1 Corinthians 12:18–27*

The root of many of today's divisions and jealousies within the church
lies in the neglect of this divine principle.

Hence, it is our responsibility, just as we teach values in our homes,
to also lovingly teach these truths within our churches:

That *we all are different parts of the same body*,
and we must *help one another*.

For the mouth cannot see, the eyes cannot eat,
the stomach cannot walk, and the feet cannot hear.
But if each part fulfills its role properly,
the *entire body becomes strong*,
and the head of our body—the *Lord Jesus Christ*—
will be exalted in glory and honor.

Amen.

Blessed is our Jesus, and blessed is His love

Led by the Holy Spirit, Guided by Faith and Scripture
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I sincerely thank our respected Pastor, Ps. Sahadev Nanda, for teaching this topic so profoundly and clearly. His guidance has been a great blessing, enriching both my knowledge and faith. May God continue to bless him abundantly.

With gratitude,
Sonu Kumar Saha