

**Question: " There have been many question about the Christian church today. What is it? Where is it going? How is it going to get there? What is its purpose? Why is it so divided and confused?"**

After some prayer and thought, this is what I think. If we look at the **visible** church in the world today we see a general hodgepodge, mixture of wheat and tares as Jesus spoke of in Matt. 13. We also see the very unusual abnormal growth of a mustard seed which grows into a giant tree and the various fowls of the air come and dwell in the braches as Jesus spoke of in Mark 4. My understanding of this, is that Christianity in general is a worldly organization which operates after worldly methods and principles, with standards, morals and success orientation which comes from the world system under the control of the god of this world, Satan. It is a part of this world system referred to as Babylon in the book of Revelations.

However, within this visible organization and in the world unseen to the worlds eyes, is the true body of Christ which He is building and will not, cannot fail as He says, "I will build my church and the gates of Hell WILL NOT PREVAIL AGAINST HER." Matt. 16:18. This is the true church and is the Kingdom of God i.e. where God reigns in the lives of those who have submitted themselves to His will. It is as Eph. 2 says His one Body, the Body of Christ, the Habitation of God through His Spirit. Also as Peter says, the living stones (believers) which have been saved and added to this body. As you quote from Corinthians, as believers in Christ we have all been baptized by the Spirit into this one body. There are no tares in this body, only wheat.

Yet in this body, there is wheat (believers) which are all in various stages of growth; Spiritual babies, little children, teenagers, young adults, middle age and older adults as well. They all have gifts but for various reasons many of them have not been taught or learned how to function in the body. Not knowing the Word and not growing in grace and knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ they remain spiritual pigmies. This does not mean that they are not a part of the Body, it simply means that we that are strong must bear with the infirmities of those that are weak and to not please ourselves. We definitely do not want to throw out the babies and the immature with the bath water. We must remember that "a servant of the Lord must not quarrel but be gentle to all, able to teach, patient,<sup>25</sup>in humility correcting those who are in opposition, if God perhaps will grant them repentance, so that they may know the truth,<sup>26</sup>and that they may come to their senses and escape the snare of the devil, having been taken captive by him to do his will." 2 Tim. 2.

We also in our own strength and knowledge are not to attempt to pull up the tares less we also root up some of the wheat. We (those of us who are partially mature in the Body of Christ) can only know tares from wheat as Our blessed Lord provides us with spiritual revelation in His time and in each situation so that we will know how He intends for us to minister to such a one. May the Lord help us all to grow in His grace and Knowledge so that He may work in us both to will and to do of His Good Pleasure. "as His divine power has **given to us all things** that *pertain* to life and godliness, **through the knowledge of Him** who called us by glory and virtue, 2 Peter 1

God bless you all. Bro. Lewis Cowan