

ACTS 31

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ALWAYS ABOUNDING IN THE WORK



Today, we shall focus on the fact that our Church covenant was not only made in heaven but also with the whole membership including those who will be part of her in the future. Our covenant states in part, "...most solemnly and joyfully enter into covenant with one another as one body

in Christ."

Our memory verse acknowledges this truth: "So we, being many, are one body in Christ, and every one members one of another."

"So we, being many, are one body in Christ..." This is an amplification of the previous verse as regards the diversity of functions of the many members but are directed to ONE entity. Here is a statement of the equality of all members. Roles may significantly differ but all must realize that each role is necessary for the operation of the whole body. Not one is more important than any other in the body. Each was saved with the same blood and body of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. Each was, is, and will be loved of God in the same way. Here further is the truth that every person is a chosen of God, a redeemed of Christ, and justified by His righteousness. Each is sanctified by His Spirit.

"So we, being many, are one body in Christ..." Here further is a statement showing how God values the assembly as a whole. Though the Church is but few in comparison of the men of the world, the Word reckons the membership as many.

"So we, being many, are one body in Christ..." Here is further a statement emphasizing the ONENESS of the assembly. Though the Church has many members yet it be but ONE body. This is an expression of the LOCALITY AND VISIBILITY of the Church. It is further a strong statement as to Christ's sentiments. First, a united group, knit together

by joints and bands, and under Him as their head, not in Caesar, or any earthly monarch. Second, a body distinguished from government or any civil community among men.

"...and everyone members one of another." Here is a statement of the ultimate direction of each believer's union with Christ. As each has been joined with Christ by regeneration, so must each to one another as siblings in Christ. As each received equally Divine love so must each love one another as Christ loved the Church and gave Himself for it. As each was accepted in the beloved and is given an opportunity to walk with Him, so must each of us accept and walk in holy fellowship together, sympathizing with, and serving each other ALL FOR THE SAKE OF CHRIST.

Our covenant with each other as ONE BODY implies two things.

First, it highlights the primacy of the Church. As the Saviour willingly gave Himself for it so must each of us be willing to give up ourselves for the Church's sake. This thought brings us to the second implication, self-denial. John the Baptist aptly put this truth when he said in John 3:30, "He must increase, but I must decrease." Paul, on the other hand, wrote in Gal. 2:20, "I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me: and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself for me."

From this time henceforth, let each of us be found always abounding in our covenant with each other as one body by continuously decreasing individual selves while allowing His Church to increase!

Pastor  ARNOLD N. VALLEJO

ALWAYS ABOUNDING IN THE WORK 2022 SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSON
TITLE: ALWAYS ABOUNDING IN OUR COVENANT
WITH ONE ANOTHER AS ONE BODY
TEXT: I CORINTHIANS 12:1-31
MEMORY VERSE: ROMANS 12:5

I. LET EACH OF US BE FOUND ALWAYS ABOUNDING IN OUR COVENANT WITH ONE ANOTHER AS ONE BODY BY THE TRUTH OF THE ONLY ONE TRUE CHURCH.

- A. There are many churches in the world and they differ in many ways. In Los Baños alone, there are more than one can imagine. Some define Church as the building or an edifice. Others are simply religion. Others loosely define it as a mere assembly or group of people who just agreed to study the _____. Some say it is but a sect or a denomination.
- B. Our text in verse 12 categorically states that "...the body is one" and that "...all the members of that one body, being many, are one body..." Verse 13 of our text affirms thus "...by one Spirit are we all baptized into one body, whether we be Jews or Gentiles, whether we be bond or free..."
- C. We are therefore sure that Jesus Himself established just one kind of a Church, and this one true Church came out other churches of the same kind. Our Saviour Himself articulated this truth in Matt. 16:18, He said IT IS HIS _____, not any one's assembly. It is the Lord's. Eph. 4:4.
- D. With the many differing churches all around us, God never left us _____ and confused. He is never the author of confusion but of order. I Cor. 14:33 affirms.
- E. The Bible clearly describes this ONE _____ CHURCH as an assembly of particular kind of people -- saved by grace alone through faith in Jesus and baptized only by the Baptist. Hence, this assembly is clearly a BAPTIST CHURCH or a congregation of Baptists.
1. These people believed the salvation message of John the Baptist. Matt. 3:1 records, "In those days came John the Baptist, preaching in the wilderness of Judaea."
 2. The same people willingly submitted to John the Baptist's baptism. John the Baptist was authorized by God. John 1:6 reveals, "There was a man sent from God, whose name was John." He was the same Baptist preacher that baptized the Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ in Matt. 3:16 -17.
 3. The same assembly met in Galilee after the Saviour rose from the dead. Calling them unto Himself in

Matthew 28 He commanded them to evangelize, baptize, and disciple converts for His name and His glory while promising His presence. We still believe that the Church Christ has established during His earthly ministry is still in existence today.

- F. The Church that our _____ established is distinct in many ways.
1. They congregate for the Word of God. The only written authority is the Holy Scriptures.
 2. It is autonomous, independent, and separate from all other bodies including the government or the state. It is self-governing, self-supporting, and self-propagating.
 3. There are only two simple requirements for membership -- saved and baptized. It is voluntary, members can practice soul liberty, and all members are equal and have the same equal access to the throne of God's grace.
 4. There are only two ordinances -- baptism and Lord Supper.
 5. It is Pastor-led, a God-called man (not woman-led nor committee-led). Some assist him so He could discharge His pastoral function of feeding the flock and prayer.
 6. Its mandate is to preach the Gospel, baptize believers, and perpetually teach the Word of God, the KJB.
 7. Praise God that CBBC Los Baños, Laguna bears these marks.

II. LET EACH OF US BE FOUND ALWAYS ABOUNDING IN OUR COVENANT WITH ONE ANOTHER AS ONE BODY BY BEING _____ TO THIS ONE TRUE CHURCH.

- A. The Church is not made up of many small churches in _____ church. Eph. 4:5-6 aptly put this truth. "One Lord, one faith, one baptism, One God and Father of all, who is above all, and through all, and in you all."
1. One Lord or Master, our Saviour Jesus Christ. His will molds the Church. He is the head, meaning whatever He set stays and none counters it.
 2. One faith and that is none other than the faith of the Saviour Himself. Heb. 12:2.
 3. One baptism and that is Baptist baptism.
 4. One God and Father of all referring to the ALMIGHTY GOD, the Creator of the universe. I Tim. 1:17.
- B. The body being one with many _____ must be understood that

each member needs all the other members.

1. Verses 15-17 encourage those members who may think they are not as smart as the other members not to exclude themselves from the body. Rather, they must be able to grasp verse 22 of our text.
2. On the other hand, verses 21-22 of our text remind the stronger and seemingly more useful members not to think that they do not need those members who seem inferior. In fact, verse 23 of our text mentions that these seemingly inferior parts must be given much more attention.

C. The body being one with many members also means that each must realize God's _____ in carefully putting all members into this one Church. Verse 18 of our text clearly states that it is God who "...set the members every one of them in the body, as it hath pleased him."

D. The body being one with many members further means that though members are not the same, yet there must not be any _____ in it. Verses 25-26 of our text mention that "... the members should have the same care one for another. And whether one member suffer, all the members suffer with it; or one member be honoured, all the members rejoice with it."

E. The body being one with many members means that every single member, whatever his or her socio-psychological-economic status, must follow His direction set by the Scriptures. None need not be a deviant. Each must be willing to be consumed by

_____ STANDARD, follow its ONE SCHEDULE, be there to the ONE PLACE OF MEETING and more. Acts 2:44-47 record such unity.

F. We at CBBC-LB may come from different backgrounds and to harness this ONE _____ truth of this Church, we are constantly in the study of the Word as this is the only means to foster unity among heterogeneous people like us.

1. Our Sunday School groups may not interfere with this ONE body.
2. Our areas and groups for separate works must never infringe in this ONE body.
3. Our ministries, though different from each other, may not interfere in this ONE body.
4. All must be geared towards the salvation of man, the building up of converts, and all for the glory of God.

III. LET EACH OF US BE FOUND ALWAYS ABOUNDING IN OUR COVENANT WITH ONE ANOTHER AS ONE BODY BY SUSTAINING AND SHIELDING OUR _____ IN PRIORITIZING THIS ONE TRUE CHURCH.

A. Every Church member must see the _____ of the Covenant. We must fully grasp how our Saviour valued His Church.

1. Acts 20:28 reveals that "...he hath purchased with his own blood." Herein is shown that Christ Jesus our Saviour has invested so much for His Church, so we should not take it lightly. Believers who do not cooperate with the Church program do not understand what "Church Covenant" means to God.
2. Moreover, Eph. 5:25 tells that "... Christ also loved the church, and gave himself for it;" He willingly gave Himself for it. Let us be serious Church members.

B. Further, we must be able to _____ the investment of the Spirit in the Church. Our text in verses 1-10 mention the fact that the Spirit is perpetually administering the spiritual gifts necessary for the Church to function well! Indeed, He is taking time to build each one for His glory.

C. Each of us must continually increase our _____ as regards the sanctity of our Church Covenant. It is our solemn vow to each other. Thus, each must, as the term solemn means, "be accustomed to use or to hold on or continue" in such vow. Each must bear in mind our entrance in this Covenant and treat it like we treat every anniversary, observed once a year with religious ceremonies.

D. Coupled with such _____ is our joy in having a part in this undertaking. Heb. 3:6 encourages us that we are His indeed.

E. Being included in the Church is a great _____ knowing He "made us accepted in the beloved Eph. 1:6; Rom. 11:29.

F. Our covenant with each other as ONE _____ must be highly regarded for the following reasons:

1. It is one of the holy traditions we must hold on to according to II Thess. 2:15.
2. It is a sound truth (life changing and holy endeavour) according to II Tim. 1:13.
3. It is one of the bases of the crowns our Saviour shall bestow upon the saved at BEMA judgment. Rev. 2:25; Rev. 3:11.

THE CHURCH MUST STAND!

In the garden of Gethsemane,
 Jesus prayed alone
 To the Father interceding
 for His bride, His love, His own.
 Father make them one in heart
 and hope as You and I are One.
 So the world can see their unity,
 and Your will on earth be done.

**The Church must stand together.
 One Spirit, one mission, one faith.
 Till Jesus claims His bride forever,
 The Church must stand together.**

Throughout time and countless
 ages the Church has been God's
 choice. To proclaim the hope of
 heaven with a brave, victorious
 voice.

Jesus is the Christ, the Son of
 God, our rock of faith secure. We
 must stand united by His Word,
 immovable, unshakeable, and
 sure.

In Christ the Church is mighty,
 the gates of hell shall fail.
 As Satan is defeated
 the saints of God prevail.

**The Church must stand together.
 One Spirit, one mission, one faith.
 Till Jesus claims His bride forever,
 The Church must stand,
 The Church must stand,
 The Church must stand,
 The Church must stand...
 Together!**

2022 CHURCH CALENDAR

February 2022

| | |
|-------|--|
| 2 | Church Prayer & Fasting/Lord's Supper |
| 6 | Child Dedication |
| 13 | First Fruits Sunday/Foundation Day |
| 20 | CBBC-LB's 38th Anniversary: Div. A & C |
| 23-25 | CBBC SP Baptist Distinctives Con. CBBCeans Homecoming |
| 27 | CBBC-LB's 38th Anniversary: Div. B & D |

CBBC-LB COVENANT

Having been led, as we believe, by the Spirit of God to receive the Lord Jesus Christ as our Saviour, and on the profession of our faith, having been baptized in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost; we do now in the presence of God, angels and this assembly, most solemnly and joyfully enter into covenant with one another as one body in Christ.

We engage, therefore, by the aid of the Holy Spirit, to walk together in Christian love; to strive for the advancement of this New Testament Baptist Church in knowledge, holiness and comfort; to promote its prosperity and spirituality; to sustain its worship, ordinances, discipline, and doctrines; to contribute cheerfully and regularly to the support of the ministry, the expenses of the church, the relief of the poor, and the spread of the Gospel to all nations; as well as to follow and support the leadership of God through His chosen man.

We also engage to maintain family and personal devotions, to religiously educate our children; to seek the salvation of our kindred and acquaintances; to walk circumspectly in the world; to be just in our dealings, faithful in our engagements, and exemplary in our deportment; to avoid all tattling, backbiting, and excessive anger; to abstain from the sale and use of intoxicating drinks as a beverage; to abstain from membership in lodges and secret organizations and to avoid taking secret oaths which are contrary to Scripture; and to be zealous in our efforts to advance the work of the Saviour.

We further engage to watch over one another in brotherly love, to remember each other in prayer, to aid each other in sickness and distress; to cultivate Christian sympathy in feeling and courtesy in speech; to be slow to take offense but always ready for reconciliation and mindful of the laws of our Saviour, to secure it without delay.

We, moreover, engage that when we move from this place we will, as soon as possible, unite with some other New Testament Baptist Church of like faith and practice where we can carry out the spirit of this covenant and the principles of God's Word.

LAST WEEK'S ATTENDANCE

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|------------|-----|---------|----|
| Sunday AM | 435 | FTV | 21 |
| Sunday PM | 148 | Baptism | 6 |
| Prayer Mtg | 138 | | |

BIBLE READING SCHEDULE Day 182-188

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|-----|--------|---|
| Mon | 31-JAN | Mark 11:1-14; 1 Kings 1; Hosea 4:11b-5:4 |
| Tue | 1-FEB | Mark 11:15-33; 1 Kings 2; Hosea 5:5-15 |
| Wed | 2-FEB | Mark 8:1-21; 2 Samuel 19; Daniel 12 |
| Thu | 3-FEB | Mark 12:28-44; 1 Kings 4-5; Hosea 7:3-16 |
| Fri | 4-FEB | Mark 13:1-13; 1 Kings 6; Hosea 8 |
| Sat | 5-FEB | Mark 13:14-37; 1 Kings 7; Hosea 9:1-16 |
| Sun | 6-FEB | Mark 14:1-31; 1 Kings 8; Hosea 9:17-10:15 |