

CHAPTER 7

**WHAT DOES IT MEAN;
“WE ARE THE BODY
OF MESSIAH?”**

*...Messiah lives in me...
~ Apostle Paul*

Most believers accept the Biblical teaching that they are the body of Messiah (Christ) – the very temple that He dwells in. It is a very basic teaching found in Messianic Judaism and in Christianity. What does it mean? Let’s review a few passages and put the pieces of the puzzle together.

1 Cor 12:12

For as the body is one and has many members,
but all the members of that one body, being
many, are one body, so also *is* Christ.

“So also is Messiah (Christ)” Paul said. Messiah’s body is made up of several parts, just like all our bodies are, yet it is **ONE BODY**. Collectively, believers are the body of Messiah. Each individual

believer is a part of the body of Messiah, just like a foot, an eye or ear is part of our physical bodies (1 Cor 12:14 – 17).

1 Cor 12:27

Now you together constitute the body of the Messiah, and individually you are parts of it. CJB

How can we constitute the body of another being while still being ourselves? We kind of understand this as a type, but upon closer examination, it gets a bit blurry. God has given us the answer, for He has made us in His image. So let's look further at the revealed nature of the Father, His Son and His Holy Spirit.

Paul said that one purpose of the ministry was to build the body of Messiah (Eph 4:12). So we see that Messiah's body is still growing. Remember, a body is something we live *IN*. The word translated "body" is also translated "slave." The same word is also used to refer to as a tabernacle, a tent, a house, a household and a temple.

1 Cor 3:16

¹⁶ Do you not know that you are the temple of God and *that* the Spirit of God dwells in you?

The Congregation of God is also called the Temple of God, for God dwells *IN* us through His Spirit. God's

house – God’s household – is still growing. His Temple is still being built. Our souls are being fashioned so God can dwell and live in us! Paul clearly stated, “...Messiah lives in me...” (Gal 2:20). Yet, clearly, just as Messiah lives in us through His Spirit, we too live in Him by the same spirit – for we are his body.

Many Christians view Jesus as the loving Son filled with grace, while the God of the Old Testament is sometimes viewed as being harsh and judgmental. According to Yeshua Himself, such a belief is a twisted perversion of God’s word for He always described God as a God of love (Luke 11:42) and HE said the Father dwelt in Him.

Col 2:9

For in Him dwells all the fullness of the
Godhead bodily;

This is a fascinating truth. Just as Yeshua dwells *in* us – we are the body of Messiah – so to *in* Messiah dwells the fullness of the Godhead bodily. This is an important piece to the puzzle of the mystery of God and the mystery of man.

The Zohar refers to the righteous saints as being the Temple of God, and even refers to them as the faces of His Divine Presence. The author of the book to the Hebrews says that Yeshua is the brightness of God's glory and the express image of God's person (Heb 1:3). In other words, Yeshua came and perfectly represented the words, character and glory of the Father to us. It had to be this way, for Yahweh Echad – Yahweh is One. There is no division or double-mindedness in God.

This concept is not new to Jewish thought and it is not limited to teachings found in the Brit Hadashah (New Testament). Notice the following excerpt from an article written by Dr. Liebes, a professor at Hebrew University School of Judaism;

“May it be your will that at the sounding of the shofar that we blow today, we will be as a sewed fabric that is filled with fear of the one in charge, Tartiel. As you accepted Elijah, blessed be his name, and Yeshua the “prince of the face” (Sar Hapanim) who is the Prince Metatron, may you fill us with mercy. Blessed be your name O LORD of mercies.” (*Angels of the Voice of the Shofar, and Yeshua Sar-Hapanim*, by Dr Liebes.)

Notice, Messiah Yeshua, the Nazarene, is referred to as the “*prince of the face.*” That is a reference to

Messiah being likened to as a reflection of the Divine YHVH – the very the face of God. Messiah is the Angel of His Face or Divine Presence.

Isa 63:9

In all their affliction He was afflicted, And the Angel of His Presence saved them; In His love and in His pity He redeemed them; And He bore them and carried them All the days of old.

This is in perfect agreement with the teachings of Brit Hadashah and specifically of Yeshua HaMashiach, when He said:

John 14:7-10

7 "If you had known Me, you would have known My Father also; and from now on you know Him and have seen Him."

8 Philip said to Him, "Lord, show us the Father, and it is sufficient for us."

9 Jesus said to him, "Have I been with you so long, and yet you have not known Me, Philip? He who has seen Me has seen the Father; so how can you say, 'Show us the Father'?"

10 Do you not believe that I am in the Father, and the Father in Me? The words that I speak to you I do not speak on My own *authority*; but the Father who dwells in Me does the works.

Yeshua is the Angel of His presence – the Prince of Face of God.

Now let's understand. "Holy Spirit" is a descriptive term not a proper name. God is Spirit and He is Holy. God is a Holy Spirit. Yeshua is a Holy Spirit. God's Spirit is His very essence. It is His means of carrying out His will. It is His extensive power. God's Spirit is likened to the wind, olive oil, water, power, love, God's very breath and even the begetting power of the Father's sperma. God's sends forth His Spirit (Ps 104:30).

When the virgin Miryam (Mary) conceived and became pregnant, it was of the Holy Spirit (Matt 1:20). From this, Yeshua was born and He referred to God as His Father. Likewise, Peter referred to God the Father's Spirit as the Father's Holy Seed when he blessed the Father who has "begotten us again to a living hope" (1 Pet 1:3). Later in the same chapter he states it this way:

1 Peter 1:23

having been born again, not of corruptible seed
but incorruptible, through the word of God
which lives and abides forever,

These multiple references to God's Spirit in 1 Peter testify to the Spirit being the incorruptible seed that Peter referred to. The apostle John made similar

references to God's Spirit being likened to the Father's seed.

1 John 3:9

9 Whoever has been born of God does not sin, for His seed remains in him; and he cannot sin, because he has been born of God.

The word "born" of God is *gennáœ* (NT:1080). It is the same word as beget or begotten. It refers primarily to the passing of life through the father; Abraham begot Isaac, Isaac begot Jacob etc., but it also refers to the complete birth process – from being begotten to the actual birth. So to be begotten of God is the same phrase as being born again. When we are begotten of our father, his seed unites with the ovum or egg of the mother and a new life is formed. But our human father's seed is corruptible. Our heavenly Father's Seed is not corruptible. In 1 John 3:9, the apostle John calls our Father God's Seed, "sperma." *Spérma* (NT: 4690) is the Greek word that we get the word "sperm" from. It is the male seed. In this case it refers to our heavenly Father's seed – His Holy life imparting Spirit! Like the testimony given in Genesis, God's seed reproduces after its kind. As the Spirit or Seed of the Father in us grows, we become more and more like His Son Yeshua, who was filled with the same Seed or Spirit. This is why Yeshua referred to God as His Father so often. Notice what Yeshua Himself said

about His relationship with the Father and about His coming from the Father:

John 14:10

Do you not believe that I am in the Father and the Father in Me? The words that I speak to you I do not speak on My own authority; but the Father who dwells in Me does the works.

Yeshua said all that He did was from the Father who dwells *in* Him. Just like the Father dwells in the Son, so Yeshua dwells in us! That's awesome.

John 12:49 – 50

49 For I have not spoken on My own authority, but the Father who sent Me gave Me a command, what I should say and what I should speak. 50 And I know that His command is everlasting life. Therefore, whatever I speak just as the Father has told Me, So I speak.”

Yeshua repeatedly taught that He was sent from the Father, that He came forth from the Father and that the Father dwelled in Him (John 16:27 – 30, 17:8). Indeed, Yeshua said He would not leave us Fatherless – for He would come to us (John 14:18). Just as the Father is in Yeshua, Yeshua is in His body of believers. Traditionally, it has always been the father that passed

on the name. So the family of our heavenly Father is named after Him.

Eph 3:14 – 17

14 For this reason I bow my knees to the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, 15 from whom the whole family in heaven and earth is named, 16 that He would grant you, according to the riches of His glory, to be strengthened with might through His Spirit in the inner man, 17 that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith; that you, being rooted and grounded in love, 18 may be able to comprehend with all the saints what is the width and length and depth and height

Let's notice a few poignant truths from this important passage:

- 1 Clearly Paul understands the words "Father" and "Son" as family terms and he uses them to refer to God's family (see verse 15 above).

- 2 As believers, we are sons and daughters of God – we are part of the family of God – through God’s Spirit in the “inner man.”
- 3 We have already seen in earlier chapters that the terms “inner man” and “heart” are synonymous terms for the word “soul.”
- 4 When we have God’s Spirit, we have Him *in* us – in the inner man, in our soul.
- 5 Having God’s Spirit *in* the inner man is having Messiah *in* our hearts through faith.

God first gave us the view of himself as a family when He made Adam *AND* Eve in His image, and then said the two shall come together and be “one” [echad] (Gen 2:24). One family made up of two or more individuals, all named after the Father.

Now since the Father’s Spirit is likened to sperma – His Seed – we can learn more about God from His family which is made in His image and in His likeness from His seed reproducing after its kind.

We have already seen that the heavenly Father of us all has a Soul a Spirit and a Body. The soul, remember, is the inner essence of life – the seat – the heart – the inner depth of our beings. Likewise, Yeshua has a soul and we have a soul, for we are all one (echad) in Him (John 17:21). I believe God sends forth His Spirit to carry out the edicts of His heart – of His soul – His will – His desire – His Word, for out of the abundance of the heart, the mouth speaks (Matt 12:34).

Isa 55:11

11 So shall My word be that goes forth from My mouth; It shall not return to Me void, But it shall accomplish what I please, And it shall prosper *in the thing* for which I sent it.

Eph 1:9

9 having made known to us the mystery of His will, according to His good pleasure which He purposed in Himself,

So God's Holy Seed is sent forth into our hearts – into our soul and unites with the spirit in man.

Rom 8:16

¹⁶ The Spirit Himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God,

It is the union of these two spirit elements – the spirit in man and the Holy Spirit of God (His Seed) that begets life. This is just like the pattern God gave us in Genesis, where the seed of man reproduces after its kind when it unites with the ovum of the woman. Both male and female came from God and are made in His image. God has the best male qualities and characteristics in Him and the best female qualities and characteristics in Him. God is One.

The process of being born is called travail and labor. Even so Paul said the whole earth was in travail and labor waiting to bring forth the sons of God (Rom 8:22). And we will be echad – one family in Him, He in us, us in Him, that the Father may be all in all (1 Cor 15:23 – 28).

Likewise, the life is in the blood. The blood is oxygenated through the breath of life entering the lungs. Thus the body has oxygen flowing all through

it. So we too have God's spirit flowing in and through us. We drink water. We wash our bodies with water. So we wash with the spirit through baptism and drink in of the spirit, His well of salvation.

In marriage, our bodies are not our own but they belong to our mate (1 Cor 7:14). We are espoused to Messiah (2 Cor 11:2). Thus Sha'ul (Paul) reminds us that our bodies and spirits belong to God.

1 Cor 6:19-20

19 Or do you not know that your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit *who is* in you, whom you have from God, and you are not your own?

20 For you were bought at a price; therefore glorify God in your body and in your spirit, which are God's.

Our bodies belong to God. Our spirit which gives life to our bodies (James 2:26) is also God's as it issued forth from Him. So He dwells in us – in His body – collectively and individually.

So we each live in a body. We can move from house to house, like Yeshua moved from one body to another. We can go to a temple and worship and we can be a

temple of worship for the one worshipped is greater than the temple which is to honor Him who is worshipped (Matt 23:17 – 21).

Just like the Father dwells in the Son, He dwells in us all through Yeshua living in us. Just as the Father dwells in the Son, the Son dwells in us. Our bodies are therefore temples of worship to glorify Him. As Messiah reflects the word and will of the Father Most High, we too are to learn to reflect the Son through Him living in us!

God's very seed (sperma) is in us, uniting with our spirit to witness that we are sons of God. Praise Yah! When I see my sons and daughters, they have many characteristics that are from me. Are we developing Godly traits? Are we growing and looking more like the Son Yeshua as the years tick by? If not, perhaps we are quenching the Holy Spirit of Messiah in us?

Long ago, God told Israel, "Look to the rock from which you were hewn (Isa 51:1)." He is telling us we are from the same stock. Rock hewn from a bigger

rock is still made of the same rock. Like Rabbi Yechezkiel Levinstein wrote,

“Every day we pray to HaShem, ‘Blessed be our God who created us for his glory and separated us from those who are lost, and has given us an eternal Torah, and eternal life planted in us.’ In man he planted a soul of life, and what life? Eternal life, a particle of God from above, with its sources from a living God.” Excerpt from the article, *Eternal Life Planted in Us*, by Rabbi Yechezkiel Levinstein.

We are from God. God can live in us just as we live in our physical bodies, if we yield to Him and nurture His Seed. God is eternal and His Spirit is thus eternal. Yeshua is eternal, for He is before time began. So God has put eternity in our hearts (Eccl 3:11). Having God’s Spirit is to have a little piece of eternity and a little bit of God in ourselves. Let it grow. Fan the flames. Don’t waist it.

This subject then belongs to the destiny and heritage of man. We were born to become sons and daughters of

God with Yeshua as our elder brother, King and High Priest (Heb 2:11). We were born to inherit the earth and all things (Rev 21:7). We were born to be kings and priests with Him (Rev 5:10). We are born again into the Royal Family of God with a Royal Torah to live with our loving Papa, the Majestic Most High Father and God who is eternally supreme over all. Amen.

“...attaining to all riches of the full assurance of understanding, to the knowledge of the mystery of God, both of the Father and of Messiah.

~ Apostle Paul