

ONE

ONE CHURCH. ONE MISSION. WON GENERATION.

Introduction:

- Vital signs. Vital signs are the four most important indicators of the status of the body's life-sustaining functions. Every living body has vital signs.
- The Church is a body – the Body of Christ – and it, too, has several important signs that indicate the status of its life-sustaining functions.
- This morning, we will discover three life-sustaining characteristics that a biblical, authentic, New Testament community of believers must embrace if it is to have a sustainable future.

Many Yet _____

*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. For in one Spirit we were all baptized into one body – Jews or Greeks, slaves or free – and all were made to drink of one Spirit. For the body does not consist of one member but of many (I Corinthians 12:12-14, emphasis added).*

Different Yet _____

If the foot should say, "Because I am not a hand, I do not belong to the body," that would not make it any less a part of the body. And if the ear should say, "Because I am not an eye, I do not belong to the body," that would not make it any less a part of the body. If the whole body were an eye, where would be the sense of hearing? If the whole body were an ear, where would be the sense of smell? But as it is, God arranged the members in the body, each one of them, as he chose. If all were a single member, where would the body be? (I Corinthians 12:15-19)

Diverse Yet _____

The eye cannot say to the hand, "I have no need of you," nor again the head to the feet, "I have no need of you." On the contrary, the parts of the body that seem to be weaker are indispensable, and on those parts of the body that we think less honorable we bestow the greater honor, and our unpresentable parts are treated with greater modesty, which our more presentable parts do not require (I Corinthians 12:21-24a).

Result? _____

But God has so composed the body, giving greater honor to the part that lacked it, that there may be no division in the body, but that the members may have the same care for one another. If one member suffers, all suffer together; if one member is honored, all rejoice together. Now you are the body of Christ and individually members of it (I Corinthians 12:24b-27).

The Church is the _____ of Jesus
on earth today.