

KEY WORDS OF EPHESIANS

By Keith Greer

Let's briefly examine some **key phrases** in the book of Ephesians."

"In Christ." "Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places in Christ." {Ephesians 1:3} Only by being "in Christ" can one enjoy spiritual blessings. Those who enter Christ's body (His church) have opportunity to pray to the Father and to receive His care, forgiveness, and promise not to leave or forsake us.

"In the Lord." "Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right." {Ephesians 6:1} In context, this verse refers to the subjection of children to their parents. Yet, it promotes the principal that all of God's children who wish to live pleasingly and acceptably before Him must humbly subject themselves to Christ (James 4:6,7). Those who are in subjection surrender their will to another. How can one be considered faithful if he fails to submit to the Lord?

"In One Body." "Having abolished in His flesh the enmity, that is, the law of commandments contained in ordinances, so as to create in Himself one new man from the two, thus making peace, and that He might reconcile them both to God in one body through the cross, thereby putting to death the enmity." {Ephesians 2:15,16} God wants His people to be united. Before going to the cross, our Lord prayed: "That they all may be one, as You, Father, are in Me, and I in You; that they also may be one in Us, that the world may believe that You sent Me." (John 17:21)

Paul, in addressing one of the major Corinthian church problems, wrote: "Now I plead with you, brethren, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that you all speak the same thing, and that there be no divisions among you, but that you be perfectly joined together in the same mind and in the same judgment." {1 Corinthians 1:10} We cannot achieve unity unless we all live according to the ONE standard of truth—the faith delivered to the saints (Jude 3). Unfortunately, in the present religious world the standard of conformity is unity in diversity. According to the "mainstream" movement we do not have to agree on the teachings of Jesus — just the facts about Him. How does this square with the desire of the Lord that we all be one in Him? Sadly, it doesn't! Dear reader, are you in Christ's body? ***