

## The Body of Christ, Universal and Local

**Body of Christ** has many parts, all of which are important, *1 Corinthians 12.12ff.*

**Jesus is the Vine**, we are the branches, *John 15.5 ff*

Need to be grafted in and abide in the Vine to bear fruit.

**Tree of Life**, many different branches with leaves, *Revelation 22.2*

Denominations (def: "under the name") as branches, for example:

- list some examples -

**Communion of saints** over time and space, throughout history and geography

Only one Body, *Ephesians 4.4*, entered through baptism, *Ephesians 4.5*.

Difficulties arise when we do not "discern the Lord's body," *1 Corinthians 11.29*

Our witness to powers and principalities, *Ephesians 3.8-10*.

Our witness to the world, *John 17.23*.

**Need for balance**, correction, completion, equipping, cleansing

5-fold ministry, *Ephesians 4.11-16; 5.19-21*.

Cleansing through fellowship, *1 John 1.5-10*

Become fitted in like "living stones" wherever we are, *1 Peter 2.4*

Assembling together, *Hebrews 10.23-25*

Humble submission, *1 Peter 5.5-7*

Honor and obey leaders, *1 Thessalonians 5.12-13; Hebrews 13.17*