

Connect

If we are the body…
Why aren't His arms reaching?
Why aren't His hands healing?
Why aren't His words teaching?

This is part of the debut single of the Christian rock band Casting Crowns, titled "If we are the Body," from their album Casting Crowns. Discuss what the songwriter (Mark Hall) is trying to say. (see: Ephesians 2:10)

Verses - Ephesians 1:20-23 (CSB)

20 He exercised this power in Christ by raising him from the dead and
seating him at his right hand in the heavens— 21 far above every ruler
and authority, power and dominion, and every title given, not only in
this age but also in the one to come. 22 And he subjected everything
under his feet and appointed him as head over everything for the
church, 23 which is his body, the fullness of the one who fills all things
in every way.

Study

1. Paul hopes we realize that the power which he prays about, is directed toward us (v.19). And it is the same power which both raised Jesus from the dead, and then seated Him at God's right hand—the highest position of power and authority in the universe (vv.20-21).

   a. Where do we see this power exercised most perfectly? (vv.20-21)
   b. How and where in the world is His power seen?
   (John 3:16; Romans 8:28; Ephesians 3:20; Ephesians 6:12, 18)

2. What could prevent the fullness of Christ's power from being seen in us?
   (Ephesians 4:30-31; 1 Corinthians 3:3, Galatians 5:16-17)
   a. Why do we need to walk in the Spirit in order to demonstrate Christ's power?

APPLY: What would magnify the fullness of Christ in the life of the church? How about your life? Which comes first?
(John 13:35; 15:5-8; Acts 1:8; Galatians 6:16)

DISCUSS: What do you think Paul means when he says that Jesus is appointed as *head* over everything for the church, which is his *body* in vv.22-23? What is the head / body connection? (see Ephesians 5:22-32)

Share

Can you remember when you understood God's purpose in Christ's bodily resurrection? How does that understanding connect not only to you but also the revival of the church?

Grow

Minister to one another through sharing praise and specific prayer requests.

- Pray we continue to grow in the knowledge, our conviction, the hope of His calling, and the riches of the inheritance so that we will have a more intimate relationship with Him.