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### THEME SONG

***The Church's One Foundation***  
*The church's one foundation*  
*Is Jesus Christ her Lord;*  
*She is His new creation,*  
*By water and the Word;*  
*From Heav'n He came and sought her*  
*To be His holy bride,*  
*With His own blood He bought her,*  
*And for her life He died.*

*Elect from ev'ry nation,*  
*Yet one o'er all the earth,*  
*Her charter of salvation,*  
*One Lord, one faith, one birth;*  
*One holy name she blesses,*  
*Partakes one holy food,*  
*And to*

*one hope she presses,*  
*With ev'ry grace endued.*

*'Mid toil and tribulation,*  
*And tumult of her war,*  
*She waits the consummation*  
*Of peace forevermore;*  
*Till with the vision glorious,*  
*Her longing eyes are blest,*  
*And the great church victorious*  
*Shall be the church at rest.*

**WORDS: Samuel J. Stone (w. 1886), alt.**

**MUSIC: Samuel S. Wesley (w 1864)**



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### THE BODY OF CHRIST, THE ARK OF SAFETY

Jesus left heaven behind and lived as a human in this world. He got hungry; He got thirsty; and He got tired. He was a physical being while on earth. Not long before His death, His physical body was anointed by a woman at Bethany. Matthew 26 tells us she came in with an alabaster jar of very expensive ointment, which she poured on His head. The disciples were indignant that such ointment was being "wasted." But Jesus said she would forever be remembered for her kindness to Him.

Prior to His death, Jesus celebrated the Passover meal with the twelve. Once the Passover meal was completed, Jesus memorialized His body when He instituted what we know as the Lord's Supper. Luke 22:19 tells us that He said, "This is My body which is given for you; do this in remembrance of Me."<sup>20</sup> And in the same way He took the cup after they had eaten, saying, "This cup, which is poured out for you, is the new covenant in My blood." The Lord's Supper is a weekly reminder of the price He paid for us. No doubt, He knew we tend to be forgetful and that we need to be reminded frequently of the price He paid for us.

After His death on the cross, His body was removed by Joseph of Arimathea. With Nicodemus' help, Joseph wrapped Jesus' body in linen cloth. They then laid His body in Joseph's own tomb. When the women brought their spices to the tomb that early Sunday morning, His body was gone! Imagine having seen His body laid there that traumatic afternoon and now seeing an empty tomb!

Turning our thoughts from His physical body, what is His body today? Paul wrote in Romans 12:5, "<sup>5</sup>so we, who are many, are one body in Christ, and individually members one of another." The apostle Paul wrote of Jews and Gentiles being reconciled in *His body, the*

church, in Colossians 1:18, 24. Jesus is the head of the church, Colossians 2:19, 3:15.

The body of Christ is also my family. My physical blood brothers and sisters are hundreds of miles away. As important as my physical family is to me, however, my brothers and sisters in our congregation are my family in a very real sense.

Early in the history of the world, life on earth was destroyed by the great flood. Only those who were on the ark built by Noah survived the flood. The church, the body of Christ, was established in Acts 2 in approximately AD 33. The church is the vehicle (the ark if you will) that carries Christians safely to eternity. No one outside the ark of safety, the church, will be saved, just as in Genesis all mankind outside the ark perished.

The body of Christ is a sacred institution. *“For no man can lay a foundation other than the one which is laid, which*



*is Jesus Christ,”* 1 Corinthians 3:11. The church was bought and paid for by the blood of God’s own Son, Jesus Christ. Because of His love, mercy, and grace, we have rock-

solid hope for eternity in Heaven in the very presence of God.

Evelyn Waite, Rolla, MO

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### What’s It to Me?

When I think of the body of Christ, the first thing that comes to mind is how Jesus gave His life for the salvation of the church. That is always first and foremost in my mind, but then I can’t help but consider the meaning of the body as a whole to me here on earth.

Romans 12:3-5 tells us, <sup>3</sup>For through the grace given to me I say to everyone among you not to think more highly of himself than he ought to think; but to think so as to have sound judgment, as God has allotted to each a measure of faith. <sup>4</sup>For just as we have many parts in one body and all the body’s parts do not have the same function, <sup>5</sup>so we, who are many, are one body in Christ, and individually parts of one another.”

Exactly what does that mean? To me it means that every Christian has certain talents, and we are to use those to uplift and glorify God as we function within the church. There is a saying in the business world that 20% of the employees do 80% of the work. Sisters, that ought not be

so in the church; however we do not all have the same abilities. Have you really thought about what your “talents” or abilities are? Some are excellent at teaching adult women, but some are better at teaching children. Is teaching in one or both of those areas your talent? If not, have you thought about learning to do so?

Some ladies are great organizers. Can you plan a great fellowship meal, or organize an awesome baby shower? What about a bible bowl? Who plans and executes meals and scheduling for the youth camps and rallies? Is that something you are good at?

Are you good at interior design? Can you decorate a nursery or put together floral displays to beautify the auditorium? I think God appreciates beauty. If you do not think so, read the descriptions of the elaborate preparation of the tabernacle found in Exodus. He was very specific about precious metals and beautiful jewels and colors.

Are you a good cook? Can you prepare and deliver meals to the sick and shut-in? Can you plan menus for specific dietary needs? Do you know others who could/would help you put together a plan to have meals in a freezer to pull out at a moment’s notice of need?

Are you a great housekeeper? The building needs regular cleaning and maintenance. Who dusts and polishes the furniture? Who picks up all the little pieces of paper and small toys left behind after each service? Who mops the floors? Who rearranges the bibles and song books into an orderly array on the back of the pews? Who cleans the toilets? UGH! But, sisters, someone has to do those things. It may seem like those are thankless tasks, but just try leaving them undone.

Do you sew? Can you make curtains, or sew children’s clothing for the missionaries? Can you crochet bed mats from plastic bags for the homeless? Can you knit or crochet hats for the NICU unit at your local hospital? What about chemo hats for cancer patients? Tabitha became famous for her work sewing for the widows and orphans. Look around. There is always someone in need.

I know of one sister who is homebound and quite physically limited, but she sends cards to members for every conceivable situation. Have a birthday or anniversary? She sends a card. In the hospital? Card sent. Just feeling depressed or had a run of mishaps? Cheer on the way. She has found her talent even with limited circumstances. Another shut-in sister makes phone calls to check on others who were missing from bible class or services. She may not be able to meet their physical

needs, but she knows who to call for that help, and she does so.

Sometimes we tend to place more “honor” on the more visible acts our fellow Christians display, and yet, we are all members of the same body. Any act of service is to glorify God. Every act is worthy of praise and appreciation, even when it is cleaning toilets and nobody else knows you have done it.

If you have one of the talents mentioned above or some other not mentioned, be sure you are using that talent. Beyond that, are you seeking to develop more talents? We should all be growing; and if you do not know how to do something, find a mentor to teach you and perhaps work with you.

So, what’s it to me? It is all about being thankful and using my talents to bless others, thus, glorifying God. There is nothing more rewarding than doing an act of service within the body of Christ. When you do, you absolutely will be glad you did.

Wilburta Arrowood, Napoleonville, Louisiana

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### Seed of Abraham

God promised Abram, “I will make you a great nation” and “in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed” (Gen.12:1-3). When God later confirmed His covenant, He promised Abram that his descendants would be as numerous as the stars of heaven (Genesis 15:5). These promises were renewed with Isaac, Jacob, and others.

What do these promises mean to us? When we first read them, our thoughts turn to the children of Israel and to the Promised Land. Yet, these promises cannot be fulfilled in and should not be limited to a physical nation. The seed of Abraham extends beyond national boundaries and physical genes.

Are you a Christian? Then you, my friend, are the seed of Abraham! Look at Galatians 3. Paul reasoned how Christ is the seed of Abraham (v16). He then concluded, “and if you are Christ’s, then you are Abraham’s seed, and heirs according to the promise” (v29).

You are Christ’s! Abraham’s seed! A child of God! An heir to the promise! Awesome thoughts! John wrote, “Behold what manner of love the Father has bestowed on us that we should be called children of God” (1 John 3:1).

We are the seed of Abraham! We are the children of God! As the seed of Abraham and the children of God, we are “heirs according to the promise.” My brother, you have “an inheritance incorruptible and undefiled and that

does not fade away, reserved in heaven for you” (1 Peter 1:4).

We are the seed of Abraham! It does not matter whether we are Jews or Gentiles, slave or free, male or female. We are “all one in Christ Jesus” (Galatians 3:28). What a fantastic thought! “**All one in Christ Jesus!**”

How does one become the seed of Abraham, a child of God? Paul wrote, “For you are all sons of God through faith in Christ Jesus. For as many of you as were baptized into Christ have put on Christ” (Galatians 3:26-27). The very means by which one is saved from sin (faith and baptism, Mark 16:16) is the very means by which one becomes a child of God.

The seed of Abraham! “Beloved, now we are the children of God” (1 John 3:2). Keeping thinking this thought!

Dwight Fuqua, Sparta, Tennessee, USA  
Via Voice of Truth International

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### God’s Family

*We’re part of the fam’ly that’s been born again;  
Part of the fam’ly whose love knows no end;  
For Jesus has saved us, and made us His own,  
Now we’re part of the fam’ly that’s on its way home.*

*When a brother meets sorrow we all feel his grief;  
When he’s passed thru the valley we all feel relief;  
Together in sunshine, together in rain,  
Together in vict’ry thru His precious name.*

*And tho some go before us, we’ll all meet again;  
Just inside the city as we enter in;  
There’ll be no more parting, with Jesus we’ll be  
Together forever, God’s family.*

### Refrain:

*And sometimes we laugh together, sometimes we cry;  
Sometimes we share together, heartaches and sighs;  
Sometimes we dream together of how it will be  
When we all get to Heaven, God’s family.*

**WORDS: Lanny Wolfe (w. 1974)**

**MUSIC: Lanny Wolfe (w. 1974)**

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