THERE IS ONE BODY OF CHRIST IN YOUR TOWN

(Kaikohe Combined Churches – 16/7/2000 – EKB)

Reading: Ephesians 2:13-4:16

- 1. In this passage in Ephesians the oneness of the Body of Christ is in focus.
 - 2:14 made both **one**
 - 2:15 one new man
 - 2:16 both to God in one Body
 - 2:18 we both have access by one Spirit
 - 2:19 **fellow citizens**....of the **household of God**
 - 2:21 in Christ the whole building....a holy temple in the Lord
 - 2:22 built together....for a dwelling place of God
 - 3:6 fellow heirs of the same body
 - 3:15 the **whole family** in heaven and earth
 - 4:4 there is **one Body**
 - 4:12 edifying of the **Body of Christ**
 - 4:16 the **whole Body** joined and knit
 - 4:16 causes growth of the Body
- 2. God has **one family** and all who believe in Christ and receive Him are part of God's family, *Eph 3:15, Rom 15:7.*
- 3. **We are one because:** we have **one Saviour** we believe in.

we have **one Cross** of salvation. we have **one Blood** of redemption. we have **one Forgiveness** of sins.

we have **one Redemption price** paid for us. we have **one Word of God** to believe. we have **one Lord's Table** of communion. we have **one Resurrection** of or Lord. we have **one Lord** whom we worship.

we have **one way** to the Father, *Jn 14:6*.

we have **one Spirit of God** giving us life, *Eph 4:4*. we have **only one God and Father** of us all, *Eph 4:16*.

- 4. So the way of God tells us to **make haste to keep this unity of the Spirit** which we have been given, *Eph 4:3*, in the bond of peace.
- 5. No one believer or leader is perfect or faultless and so offences will come. We all fall short on many things, *Jam 3:2*, *Ps 130:3*.
- 6. Because of this **fact** Jesus has told us what He requires of us as in *Lk* 6:27-38,46.

He says: "Love your enemies,

do good to those who hate you, **bless** those who curse you, and

pray for those who spitefully use you."

(Read the rest.)

7. Jesus tells us to love and to do good to those who hurt us and offend us.

To **forgive fully**, *Mk* 11:25,26.

To release from all judgment, Mat 7:1,2.

To fully bless those who offend us, as in *Ac 26:18*, *Eph 4:32*.

- 8. If you can really **pray blessing** on those who have hurt you, then you have forgiven and released them from your judgment. This is the test.
- 9. **When we do not forgive, release from judgment and bless** those who hurt and offend us, we are not forgiven, and God the Father hands us over to the "tormentors" as He has promised to do, *Mat 18:32-35*.
- 10. **The way of blessing, peace, unity and prosperity** is in obedience to the Word of God and His Will.
- 11. When we forgive,

release from judgment, and bless others,

we void satan's jurisdiction and release the blessing and power of God to build the Kingdom of God in Kaikohe and gather in God's harvest.

- 12. **God has established one Body of Christ in Kaikohe** of which we are all a part. The New Testament teaches that there is one unified Body of Christ or church in each town or city. *1Cor 1:2, 2Cor 1:1, 1Thes 1:1, 2Thes 1:1, Rom 16:1, Col 4:16, Ac 11:22, Ac 20:17, Rev 2:1,8,12.* The epistles of the New Testament are addressed to the church of the city not to individual congregations.
- 13. **Each church in Kaikohe** is a part of the whole Body of Christ in Kaikohe.
- 14. **There is one Body of Christ in Kaikohe** made up of many congregations.
- 15. As we forgive one another,

release from judgment, bless others and support them, pray together,

worship God together in combined events, reach out together to the lost.
minister together to the hurting, oppressed, afflicted,

God's power, presence, word, truth, mercy, grace, love and righteousness will fill Kaikohe at every level and the glory of His Kingdom and salvation will overflow all things.

Recommend: "Transformations" video by George Otis Junior.

- 16. Jesus prayed that **His disciples would be one**, *Jn 17:11,21,22,23*, as **He is with the Father**, so that **the world might know** that the Father sent the Son and be saved.
- 17. **This prayer was wonderfully answered in the New Testament,** *Ac* 1:14, *Ac* 2:1,41-47. The Church was truly **one in Christ, the Holy Spirit and God's Word.** As a result there was great power upon the disciples and many were saved, *Ac* 4:4. This oneness continued as in *Ac* 4:24,32, *Ac* 5:12. So did the power increase, *Ac* 4:33, *Ac* 5:13-16.