THE BODY OF CHRIST

This is a discussion guide for the Pentecost Service, held on May 24, 2026 in South Africa by Chief Apostle Schneider. If you would like to review the service before your discussion - watch it at this link (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_uSSOEjpYDA).

BIBLE VERSE

1 Corinthians 12:13

For by one Spirit we were all baptized into one body - whether Jews or Greeks, whether slaves or free - and have all been made to drink into one Spirit.

QUESTIONS

We believe in the church of Christ. That does not refer to the New Apostolic Church, but the church that is the holy and perfect work of the Holy Spirit.

1. In the sermon, the Chief Apostle described the church of Christ as all baptized believers who follow Christ and profess Him as Lord. How does this broader understanding of the church shape the way we view Christians from different backgrounds, cultures, or denominations?

2. The Chief Apostle describes the church as the "visible body of Christ" in the world. In what ways should the church reflect the character and ministry of Jesus today?

The body of Christ experiences the same things that Jesus experienced on earth. Sometimes He was strong in followers, sometimes weak. But His strength didn't reside in the number of followers or the miracles that He performed, but rather in His love for God and His obedience.

3. The church is both "weak and strong." Why is it encouraging to know that God still works through an imperfect church?

4. The sermon emphasizes that the true strength of the Church is not numbers, wealth, or influence, but faithfulness, love, and obedience. Why is this distinction important in today's world?

5. When you think about "strength" in faith, what qualities do you usually admire? How does the Chief Apostle challenge or reshape that understanding?

"My kingdom is not of this world." No one can claim to govern or rule a country in the name of Jesus Christ. No one can go to war on behalf of Jesus Christ. No one can use the

gospel of Christ to justify violence and hatred. Jesus didn't come to solve all the problems of this world.

6. Jesus said, "My kingdom is not of this world." How should that shape the priorities and mission of Christians?

7. Have you ever experienced Christians using guilt, fear, or condemnation in a harmful way? How did that affect your understanding of Christ?

8. How can the Church care for people's physical and emotional needs without reducing the gospel to only earthly solutions?

9. What does it look like to truly "love your neighbor" in a culture that often encourages judgment and division?

10. The Chief Apostle said it is not the Church's task to create a "hierarchy of sins." Why can comparing sins or people become spiritually dangerous?

Every person has a different understanding of weakness - yet we are all weak in the eyes of someone. But what matters to Christ is how we treat those we see as weak.

11. Christ identified Himself with the poor, sick, and sinners. How can our congregation better reflect Christ's compassion toward people who are suffering or marginalized?

12. How can our love and care for weaker or struggling members become a testimony of Christ's presence within the church?

13. Have you ever felt like a "weaker" member of the body of Christ? How did others treat you during that time?

14. The body has many members with different tasks and gifts. How can differences within the Church become a strength rather than a source of division?

15. In 1 Corinthians 12:1–11, Paul emphasizes that there are "different kinds of gifts, but the same Spirit." What does this teach us about unity and diversity within the church?

16. What spiritual gifts or abilities has God given you to strengthen and serve the body of Christ?

17. The church is being prepared as the bride of Christ. How does this shape the way you want to live and serve today?