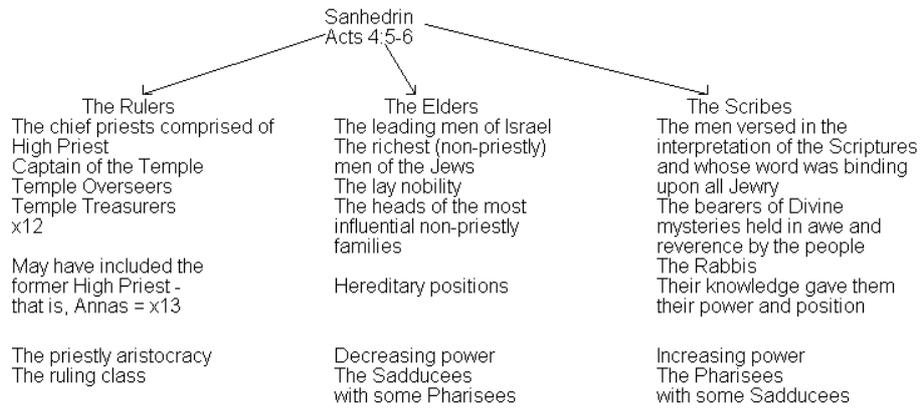
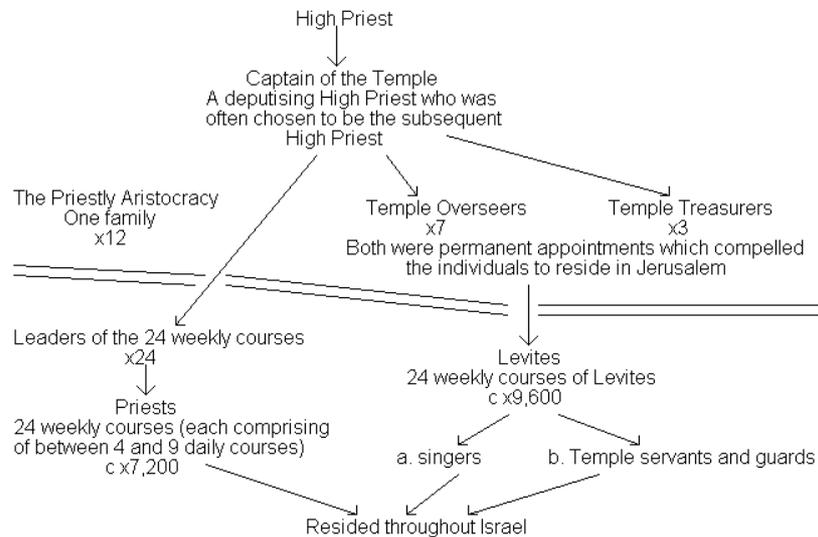


# The Ekklesia as an Organism - 'The Body'

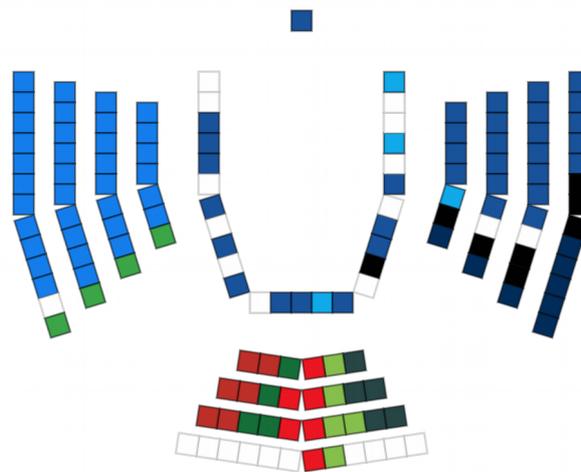
When the Apostle Paul described the *ekklesia* as the Body of Christ,<sup>1</sup> he used an organismal analogy. He didn't use an organisational analogy even though there were plenty of them around in ancient times. As a Jew he could have likened the *ekklesia* to the structure of the Sanhedrin of his day.<sup>2</sup>



As an ex-Pharisee, he could have likened it to the then Jewish clergy system.<sup>3</sup>



He could have likened it to the Roman senate or the city's 'parliament'.<sup>4</sup>



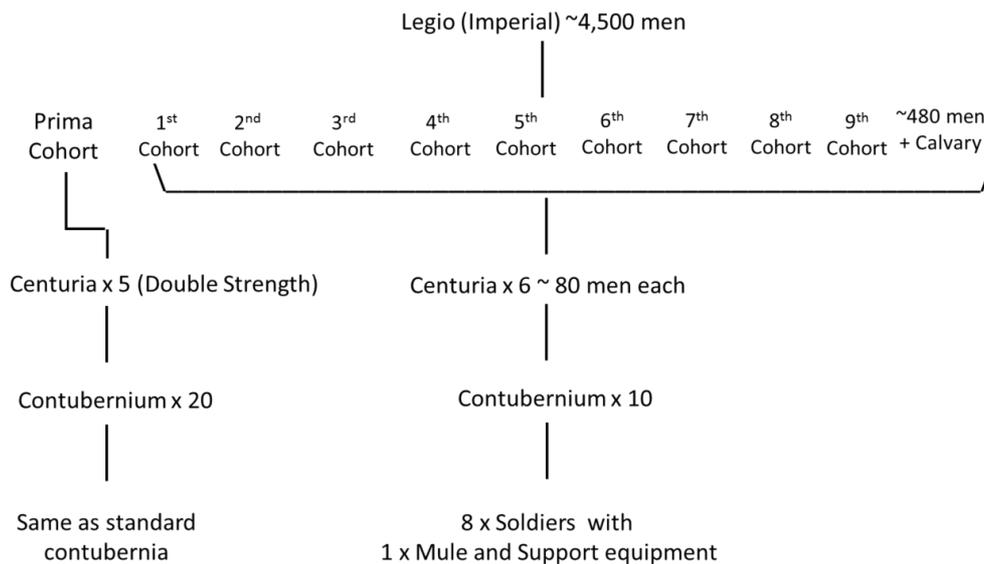
1 – 1 Corinthians 12:12-31 (Ephesians 4:12)

2 – GRAPHIC: Lee Smith "The Hierarchy of the Clergy" [www.arlev.co.uk/sanchart1.gif](http://www.arlev.co.uk/sanchart1.gif) (Free download)

3 – GRAPHIC: Lee Smith "The Composition of the Sanhedrin" [www.arlev.co.uk/sanchart1.gif](http://www.arlev.co.uk/sanchart1.gif) (Free download)

4 – GRAPHIC: "Knesset party layout 2019-05-22" [en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Knesset](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Knesset) (Creative Commons Attribution-Share Alike 4.0 International licence)

For the Roman-conquered gentiles, he could have used the structure of a Roman legion as his model.<sup>5</sup>



But...he didn't use any of these options.

Why? Because the *ekklesia* doesn't work as a hierarchical structure where an upper (superior) level controls a subordinate (inferior) level. The Kingdom on Earth – but not in Heaven – works as an equity system. This is why the members of the *ekklesia* are all on the same level, where there is no distinction of race, gender or servitude.<sup>6</sup> Note however, that this is in the genuine *ekklesia* (Kingdom community), not in society.

Why this equity? Because we are all sons of the Most High God, made in his image and likeness, and given the same responsibility to supervise the planet. In the Trinity's family, all 3 are equal, and so are we. But, equality has nothing to do with function, submission and obedience. This is exemplified in the Son (the man, Lord Jesus) and Holy Spirit submitting to Father.<sup>7</sup> This means that there should be no hierarchy of position or offices in the *ekklesia* because we are a mirror of our spiritual family – individuals only have function and submission to other functions. In fact, we are to submit – in the real sense of submission – to one another, not to a hierarchy of leadership.<sup>8</sup>

In regards to the *ekklesia* being an organism the principle for this is that we are a family, just like the Trinity, where each member relies on the others and can't do without them. Everyone has a function and everyone serves all the others.

The *ekklesia* is described as described by Paul is a body ('The Body of Christ'<sup>9</sup>) where the ascended man, Jesus (Jesus Christ), is the head and we are individually part of that body.<sup>10</sup> There is only one head and he is not a figure head but he functions as a head. This means he's in full control because, in the analogy, a person's head controls their body. If we are part of the body then we are the parts that make the body work for the head. Just as the foot, hand and eye are organs that make up a person's body, because they are an organism, so we are part of the organic structure of the organs in the organism known as 'the Body of Christ'.

To help you understand this concept and to differentiate between an organism and an organisation, over the page are 2 graphic representations I have produced.

5 – GRAPHIC: "Infantry Units of the Post Marian Reforms Legion" (Creative Commons Attribution-Share Alike 4.0 International licence) [commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Legion\\_Task\\_ORG.png](https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Legion_Task_ORG.png)

6 – Galatians 3:27-29

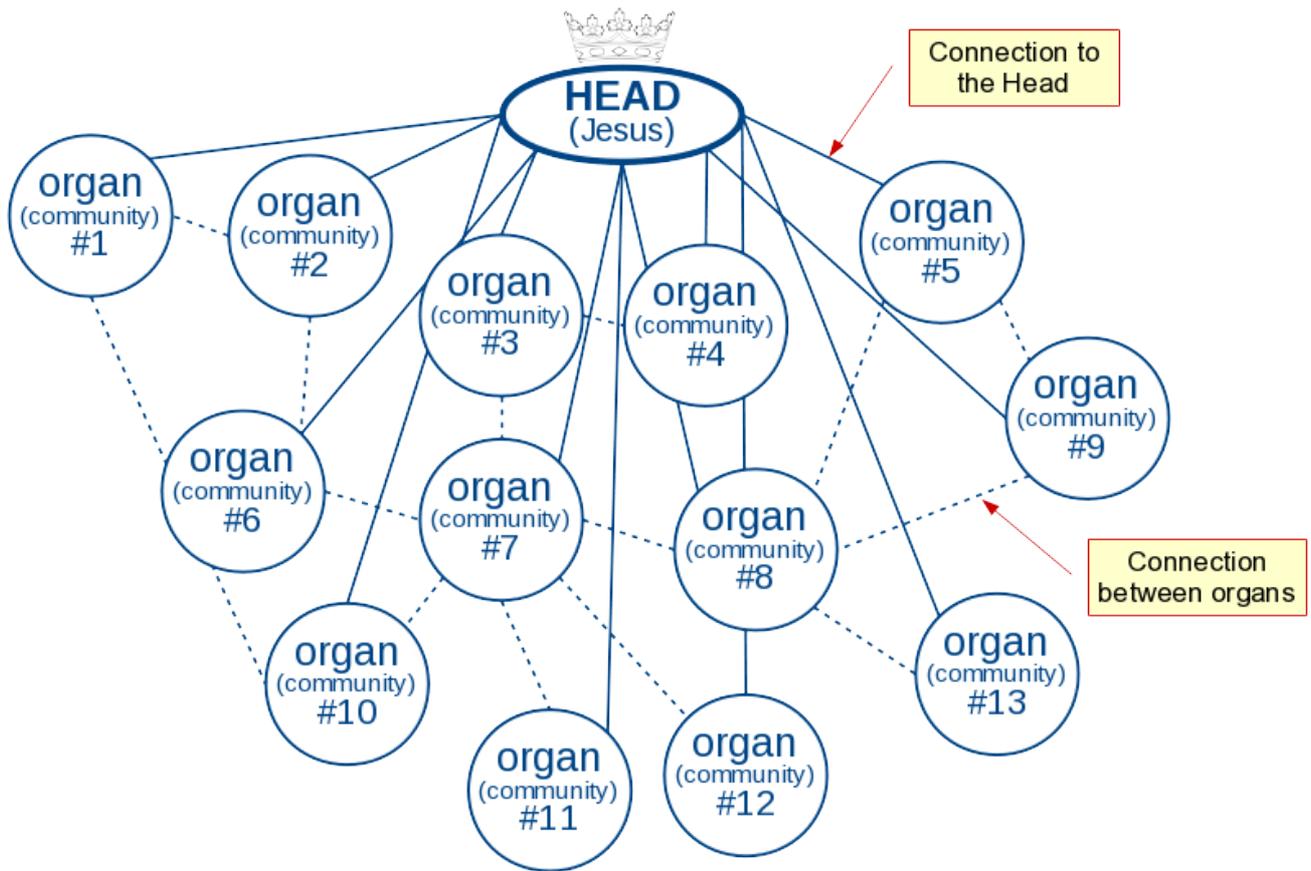
7 – Note the present tense in 2 Corinthians 1:3

8 – 1 Peter 5:5; Ephesians 5:21

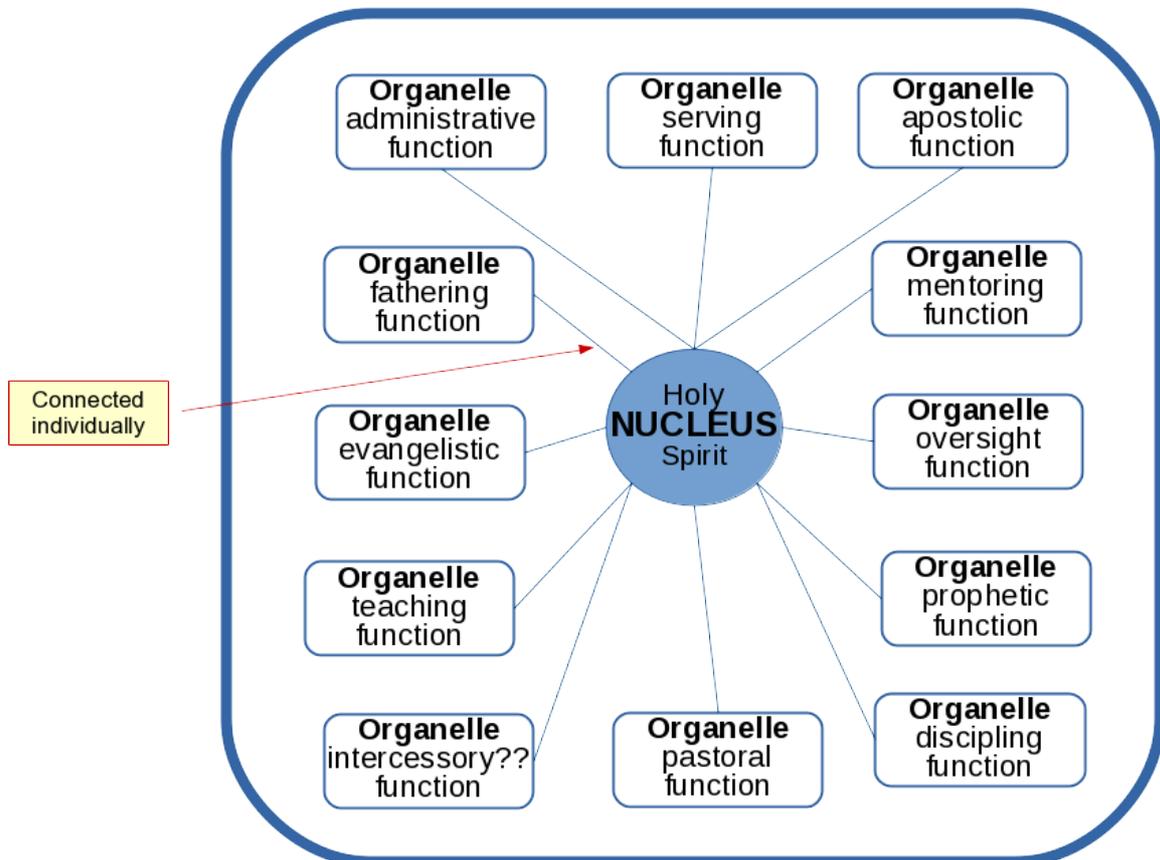
9 – 1 Corinthians 12:27

10 – 1 Corinthians 12:27

# The *Ekklesia* as an Organism - 'The Body'



# Kingdom Community as a Cell - 'The Body'



In these 2 graphics<sup>11</sup> I have endeavoured to show the interconnectivity and reliance of everyone and every Kingdom community on each other,<sup>12</sup> Holy Spirit and the King.

This study should help you become receptive to the revelation of the genuine Body. It should also cause you to be careful how you use the term, 'the Body of Christ'<sup>13</sup> in regard to churches.

**REMEMBER:** All revivals, including the spirit-filled ones, have ended up in a different form of religion.

This is a historical fact, not an opinion. For example:

- John & Charles Wesley → Methodists of today
- John Knox → Presbyterians of today
- Plymouth Brethren → Brethren of today
- Welsh Revival → (Who knows ??????)
- William Booth → The Sally's of today
- Jonathan Edwards → US evangelicals of today
- Roger Williams & John Clarke → US Baptists of today

The same happened to the original *ekklesia* in the Ancient Near East (ANE). By the time of the end of the 1<sup>st</sup> century many were already into the liturgy. This move to religion culminated in the Church of Rome which took over from the spirit-filled originals and spawned Roman Catholics, Orthodox, Church of England, Church of Ireland, Church of Scotland, and too many others to list.

In light of these historical facts, don't let anyone cause you to believe that the religious church system today, in all its forms, is what God set up. The Bride and the *ekklesia* were meant to be an organism in intimate relationship with the King, but religion has always set up an organisation in opposition to God's loving plan.

**IMPORTANT:** If a group functions as an organisation rather than an organism because there is a hierarchy of leadership with control, and where only a few individuals have a function, the group is not part of the Body of Christ. Only organic entities are part of the organism called 'The Body'<sup>14</sup>. This is why Kingdom Communities are a genuine expression of 'The Body'.

**REFLECTION:** Read newspaper extract over the page.<sup>15</sup> See if you can understand the difference between an organisation & an organism as you read?

Laurence  
1-6-2019  
([www.CanberraForerunners.org](http://www.CanberraForerunners.org))

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11 – GRAPHICS: Both by Laurence Smart (Free & open source, licensed under [Creative Commons Attribution-NonCommercial-NoDerivs 3.0 Unported License](http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc-nd/3.0/))

12 – Ephesians 4:16

13 – 1 Corinthians 12:27

14 – Ephesians 5:23; Colossians 1:18; 2:19

15 – News.com.au (1-6-2019) [www.news.com.au/national/queensland/news/homicide-detectives-investigate-possible-murdersuicide-in-horrific-crash-that-killed-charmaine-harris-mcleod-and-four-kids/news-story/8d0cbcd68856f650518f3dccc3ff6469](http://www.news.com.au/national/queensland/news/homicide-detectives-investigate-possible-murdersuicide-in-horrific-crash-that-killed-charmaine-harris-mcleod-and-four-kids/news-story/8d0cbcd68856f650518f3dccc3ff6469)

**The clues that homicide detectives will trace in possible murder-suicide crash that killed Charmaine McLeod and four kids**

"Weeks before her death, Ms McLeod uploaded an agitated post to her local church, the Bayside Christian Church in Hervey Bay [Queensland].

The post stated she wouldn't recommend the Church to anyone, and had honestly "tried to fit in" there for 17 years.

"I feel (that) if you can't, or don't grasp God/healing etc. when they think you should have, then you just get left behind", she wrote.

She also claimed she had been a victim of domestic violence in the past and had been left "with nothing and 4 children".

"You would think there would be support/help, but very very little", Ms McLeod wrote.

"They (the Church) were always too busy."

Ms McLeod also claimed the Church didn't offer her or her children "one piece of clothing or a piece of bread ... let alone shelter".

"I feel as if I've done it alone ... these are the things Jesus did, he ate with the less fortunate", she wrote.

"I've asked for prayer before surgery and yes, I've had a lot of surgeries but they don't, they do for others though."<sup>16</sup>

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16 – News.com.au (1-6-2019) [www.news.com.au/national/queensland/news/homicide-detectives-investigate-possible-murdersuicide-in-horrific-crash-that-killed-charmaine-harris-mcleod-and-four-kids/news-story/8d0cbcd68856f650518f3dccb3ff6469](http://www.news.com.au/national/queensland/news/homicide-detectives-investigate-possible-murdersuicide-in-horrific-crash-that-killed-charmaine-harris-mcleod-and-four-kids/news-story/8d0cbcd68856f650518f3dccb3ff6469)