

# **“Enemies of the Church”**

## **Rom. 12:4-5**

### Introduction

- I. The church is the body of Christ (Eph. 1:22-23).
- II. The body of Christ is similar to the physical human body (Rom. 12:4-5).
- III. The physical body has “enemies” (diseases, etc.).
- IV. The body of Christ has “enemies”.

### Discussion

- I. Ignorance is an enemy.
  - A. There are examples of ignorance in the Bible (Isa. 45:20; Jer. 5:21; Hos. 4:1, 6).
  - B. Ignorance causes many problems.
    1. Wrong way (Isa. 59:8; Amos 3:10).
    2. Brings the wrath of God upon us (Zech. 7:11-12).
    3. Causes our souls to be lost (Matt. 13:15).
- II. Unbelief is an enemy.
  - A. Belief is of absolute importance (John 8:24; Heb. 11:6; cf. Mark 9:24).
  - B. Satan wants everyone to have unbelief (2 Cor. 4:3-4).
  - C. Unbelievers can be those who were saved (Heb. 3:12).
- III. Apathy is an enemy.
  - A. It is said that a wife once asked her husband, “Do you the world's problems are caused by ignorance or apathy?” The husband responded, “I don't know and I don't care”.
  - B. The church at Laodicea may have had a problem with apathy (Rev. 3:15-16).
  - C. The Bible shows the problem of apathy (Jud. 5:23; Isa. 32:9; Jer. 48:10; Amos 6:1; Matt. 7:26; James 2:14).
- IV. Sin is an enemy.
  - A. All of the previous three (ignorance, unbelief, and apathy) lead to sin.
  - B. Sin hinders the church (Heb. 12:1).
  - C. Sin will harden the heart (Heb. 3:12-13).
  - D. Sin will corrupt the soul (James 5:19-20).

### Conclusion

- I. The church has enemies that must be defeated.
- II. Each part of the church needs to do it's part to ensure victory.