

Invasion of the Body Snatchers

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There was a movie made in the 1950's and later remade in the early 1970's by the title *Invasion of the Body Snatchers*. Alien "pods" from some unknown planet were being shipped to this planet. These pods were replacing the people of earth by developing into exact duplicates of human bodies. The original human would die when the pod came to life, thereby replacing him. The pods could only grow when the person they were to replace was sleeping.

The alien pods presented a false body as the real thing. These duplicates lived and carried out their plans while living among the real humans. It was very difficult to distinguish between who was real and who wasn't.

Let's get back to reality. There is no such thing as Body Snatchers. It was all a movie. Right? Yes it was a movie, but the church has it's own invasion taking place, and it is not aliens from an unknown planet replacing human bodies that we are to be concerned about. There are those trying to replace the Body of Christ with something that is less than the real thing. They have been very effective for those who care have, for the most part, been sleeping as this invasion has taken place.

There is much talk today about unity, and there should be. Christians should stand united against Satan's world system. However, there is much less talk concerning what it is that unites Christians. We hear in many places that to believe "Jesus is Lord" is the bare minimum that is needed for unity, everything else is peripheral. Is that enough? What do the Scriptures say?

Ephesians chapter four gives us our bare essentials for unity.

¹I, therefore, the prisoner of the Lord, entreat you to walk in a manner worthy of the calling with which you have been called, ²with all humility and gentleness, with patience, showing forbearance to one another in love, ³being diligent to **preserve the unity of the Spirit** in the bond of peace. ⁴There is one body and one Spirit, just as also you were called in one hope of your calling; ⁵one Lord, one faith, one baptism, ⁶one God and Father of all who is over all and through all and in all.

We are told in verse 3 to be diligent to preserve the unity of the Spirit. The Greek word for *diligent* is a word which means to be a master-craftsman. Paul uses the same word in II Timothy 2:15. We are to work with all eagerness and diligence to preserve unity in the Church. What are those things we must have and strive to have unity upon? It is One body, one spirit, one hope, one Lord, one faith, one baptism, and one God.

Christ has one body, not many. There is a cry from many in our brotherhood to abandon the Restoration plea and unite with others of different faiths simply upon the Lordship of Jesus Christ. With that one qualification for unity we can, so it is said, fulfill Christ's prayer for unity in John 17. With all of the different doctrines, being taught by so many other groups, being brought into one body, puts me in mind of another old movie: Frankenstein. The monster had a unity, but his was a man-made life, and he was, in spite of the best intentions of his creator, a monster.

Jesus is most certainly Lord of all creation, but his inspired writer does not allow that to be the ONLY qualification for unity. One faith, not many (or any). Like it or not, baptism must be a part of that unity. Not many baptisms, one baptism. Why do so many of our brethren feel they must compromise on God's written truth in order to be united? Because unity, or more accurately union, is taking precedence over doctrine.

I would remind these folks who are calling for an abandonment of Restoration principles that when we taught the truth without being embarrassed by it, we were the fastest growing religious movement in the nation. Why can't we unite upon God's truth once again and present a united front against the doctrines of Satan and his world system? Quit trying to find ways of compromise and "preach the word; be ready in season and out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort, with great patience and instruction. . . fight the good fight." (II Tim. 4:2-7). Those sound like fightin' words. Too confrontational! People might get offended! People are pleasantly going to hell while the Church refuses to fight. When the youthful Body of Christ was "continually devoting themselves to the apostles doctrine" (Acts 2:42)

the Church was confronting the sinful world. Yes they made many enemies. People that refuse to repent will always hate the Body of Christ. But it was the youthful, confrontational, hated by the world, Body of Christ that spread the apostles' doctrine throughout the world.

The Body of Christ we see today does not appear to be of the same mind as it used to be. Has the real Body of Christ been sleeping? Wake up, the Body is under attack and being snatched away!