

## Community Demystifies the Body

How do you *know* that you have passed out of death and into eternal life? 1 Jn 3:14,23 — What does it mean to love your brother, or to love one another as Messiah loved His disciples? (Jn 13:34; 1 Jn 3:16). How will the world ever know who are His true disciples, as distinguished from pseudo-disciples?

What does 1 Jn 2:4 mean?

What does Jn 14:21 mean?

What does Jn 12:26 mean?

What does Jn 12:25 mean?

How can you possibly know whether you are a pseudo-disciple? Where is it possible to know that you are a true disciple of His and that you have passed out of death (the sentence of death)? Or must you stand judgment after the First Death sentence (Gen 2:17; Heb 9:27) to determine your eternal destiny – a second life or a second death?

What is passing out of death?

What does it mean to have passed out of death?

What does death mean?

What is death? (The Prayer of Manasseh describes something like death.)

What is the only way or means by which one can know whether he has eternal life or not? Jn 5:24 tells us how one can come to the place where He is (Jn 12:26), where serving Him is loving your brothers (1 Jn 3:14,16), laying down your life for one another, just as He did for us (2 Cor 5:15). To live no longer for yourself is to be able to live for Him, and to live for Him is to live for your brothers. No one can live for Him if he is not able to love as our Master commanded him to love – just as He loved (Jn 13:34; 1 Jn 3:16).

Mt 28:20; Jn 14:21; 1 Jn 2:4 – We start obeying His commands in obedience to the gospel, which the rich young ruler would not do, because he did not trust the One who could give him eternal life. Trusting Him meant nothing less than doing what He commanded him to do (Mk 10:17,21-30). We are His friends if we do what He says (Mt 7:21), which is what it means to do the will of His Father.

What is the will of the Father in Jn 7:17? To be obedient to His word, His Son's commandments – to love as He loved (1 Jn 3:14,16,23). This is possible only in a community – it takes a community. To follow and serve Him where He is — in a community in which He has caused His name to dwell. There is no way one can know that he has passed out of death without being in such a community. For one cannot love or obey His commandments outside a community such as He established in the first century (Acts 4:32). One cannot obey or fulfill Jn 13:35 and 17:23 in any other context. It is virtually impossible to live according to His word outside a community. 1 Jn 3:16 is an impossibility apart from community.

Community demystifies His Body.